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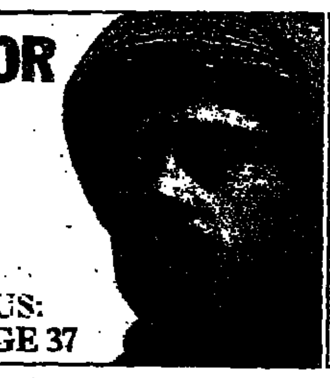

IS THIS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN?

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Golden wedding tributes to family

Duke's secret of success: 'my tolerant wife'

By Alan Hamilton

The Duke: proud of his children's achievements

THE Duke of Edinburgh paid warm tribute to his wife's tolerance and his children's achievements yesterday in an unusually personal speech to mark the royal couple's golden wedding anniversary.

With the Queen at his side, the Duke also expressed his belief that a partnership in marriage could achieve much more than a single individual and offered his own recipe for a successful marriage.

"I think the main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient," he told 800 guests at a lunch at Guildhall in the City. "It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when the going gets difficult. You can take it from me that the Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance."

He went on to confess that he and his wife had gone through the full range of the pleasures and tribulations of child-rearing. "I am, naturally, somewhat biased, but I think our children have all done rather well under very demanding circumstances and I hope I can be forgiven for feeling proud of them. I am also encouraged to see what a good start the next generation is making."

Three of the couple's children have been divorced, and the fourth remains unmarried. Only one — the Princess Royal — was present to hear the Duke's tribute.

Alluding to the difficulties of royal marriage, the Duke said that position of hereditary head of state was greater than the individual who occupied it. "People who find themselves in such a position have to learn to accept certain constraints ... but they also discover that it gives them quite exceptional opportunities to serve the interests of their communities and the nation at large. In such circumstances much can be done by an individual, but I am sufficiently old-fashioned to believe that a great deal more can be achieved by a partnership in marriage. It has been a challenge for us, but by trial and experience, I believe we have achieved a sensible division of labour and a good balance between our individual and joint interests."

For the Duke to make the formal speech while his wife is present is unusual, but as he explained, marriage involves two partners. The Queen will have her turn today, the actual anniversary, when she replies to the toast at a lunch for 350 people hosted by the Prime Minister.

The Queen is only the second reigning monarch in British history to achieve a golden wedding anniversary. The other couple were King George III and Queen Charlotte in 1811, but as the king had by then relapsed into his so-called madness, festivities were thin on the ground.

This time, however, there will be two days of celebrations. They began the Queen and the Duke arrived at Guildhall to be greeted by the Lord Mayor and a crowd of 200 on the street outside. Besides large numbers of City worthies and their wives, the guest list included Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Kent and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. John Prescott represented the Government, and the former prime ministers John Major, Baroness Thatcher, Sir Edward Heath and Lord Callaghan were also there.

The bells of the church of St Lawrence Jewry rang out as guests sat down to baby lobster, Norfolk duckling with Calvados and apples, and bread and butter pudding with custard. As background, the orchestra of the Scots Guards played selections from *The King And I*, and other light romantic melodies.

Last night the Queen and Prince Philip attended a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall devised by Prince Edward with help from the theatre director Trevor Nunn. They were joined at the concert and for supper afterwards by some 50 representatives of other European royal houses both regnant and deposed.

Members of the public paid between £10 and £400 for a seat at the concert, based on a theme of love, which drew heavily on readings from Shakespeare by actors including Ian Holm, Donald Sinden and Diana Rigg. The music ranged from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* to Bernstein's *West Side Story*, from Verdi's *Otello* to Mendelssohn's *Wedding March*.

The anniversary celebrations reach their climax today when the Queen and the Duke attend a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, where they were married on November 20, 1947. In the depths of postwar austerity, even Princess Elizabeth had to find 300 clothing rations coupons for her silk Hartnell dress.

After the service, at which five other golden couples will be blessed, the royal couple will emerge from the Great West Door and walk about in front of the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, before driving to 10 Downing Street for pre-lunch drinks with Tony and Cherie Blair.

The Prime Minister will then accompany them to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, where, in the style fo the present Government, he will host a "people's banquet". The most honoured ordinary mortal there will be the jockey Walter Swinburn, who will be seated next to the Queen.

Other guests will include Sir Cliff Richard, Shirley Bassey, Mike Atherton, Sally Gunnell, Frank Bruno and Rowan Atkinson as well as a small collection of people who could genuinely be described as "ordinary". Brian Bevan, Britain's most decorated lifeboatman, WPC Gillian Shields, community policewoman of the year, and Helen James, a Girl Guide leader from Anglesey, will be among them.

The celebrations will conclude tonight with a private ball in the newly restored state apartments of Windsor Castle.

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CHRIS HARRIS

The Queen at Guildhall where she was given lion, unicorn and dragon carvings which will find a home at Windsor

Million pound takeover bonanza for 300

By Jason Nissé and Richard Miles

UP TO 300 millionaires were created instantly in the City yesterday when the giant American stockbroker, Merrill Lynch, paid £3.1 billion in cash for Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the pension fund manager.

The suprise bid made the City firm's bosses, Hugh Stevenson, Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman, at least £10 million each. But the £17-a-share offer — priced at nearly a third more than MAM's market price on Tuesday — will also make as many as 300 of the firm's staff untold fortunes thanks to its generous share options scheme. The deal will create the world's third largest fund manager, with £266 billion of funds under management.

Neither MAM nor Merrill Lynch would give details of the windfalls that could create nearly as many millionaires as the National Lottery, but MAM's most recent annual report states that its nine executive directors and up to 290 other employees stand to benefit from the firm's share option scheme.

Mr Zimmerman is the largest beneficiary of the deal, making £15 million on top of the £5.9 million he recieved last year.

Ms Galley, a former librarian from Tyneside, will pick up an estimated £10 million on top of the £5.4 million she took home last year and Mr Stevenson will supplement his £980,000 pay from last year with a £14 million wind-

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Rescuer missing

A helicopter winchman was missing last night when he was washed off the deck of a cargo ship near Shetland where he had rescued 10 of its crew. Bill Deacon was swept into the sea seconds after he had attached a rescue wire to the final seaman ....Page 3

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MPs give Harman 'roasting' over cuts

By Nicholas Watt, political correspondent

TONY BLAIR was told last night that he faces a "considerable revolt" by Labour MPs over the Government's decision to cut benefits for lone parents by up to £11 a week.

The warning from backbenchers came after Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, was given a hostile reception at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). The backbenchers passed on the concerns to Mr Blair at the new weekly meeting between the Prime Minister and the PLP's executive committee.

MPs who were present at the earlier meeting said that Ms Harman was given a "roasting" when at least ten MPs made hostile speeches. Those who spoke included Chris Mullin, the MP for Sunderland South Audrey Wise, the MP for Preston, and Michael Connarty, the MP for Falkirk East.

One MP who was present said: "In all my years I have never seen a frontbencher given such a mauling. Harriet was hopeless and seemed to be completely out of touch with the victimisation of lone parents."

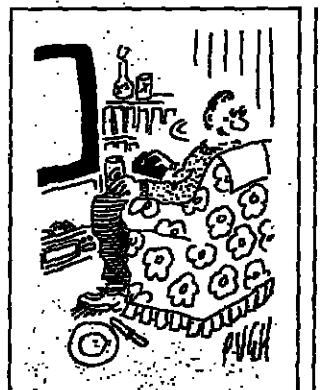
Ms Harman's reception marked the latest stage in a growing revolt on the Labour backbenches at the Government's decision to uphold the Tories' plans to cut benefits to lone parents by up to £11 a week.

A Commons Early Day Motion questioning the cuts, which was first published in July, has been attracting growing support. It will be published again today with the signatures of 43 Labour MPs.

One Labour loyalist said Ms Harman's critics at yesterday's meeting were not just drawn from the ranks of disaffected left-wingers and that new MPs, who would be expected to toe the line, spoke up. Ms Harman was told that MPs were dismayed that ministers had decided to uphold a Tory spending cut.

One MP threw back at Ms Harman her own criticism of the cuts when they were first proposed by Kenneth Clarke in his budget last year. The rebels were angered after the meeting when a Labour party spokesman said that the meeting had given its "full backing" for Ms Harman's "New Deal" plan which involves the cut in benefits and measures to encourage lone parents to work.

Ms Harman's supporters fought back last night and insisted that she had not been given a rough time.



"Quick! There's another nudity and violence bit coming up"

TV may alert viewers to naked truth

A TELETEXT-STYLE warning system that could end the embarrassment suffered by parents as they watch television with their children is being considered by broadcasting watchdogs (Carol Midgley writes).

Under the system messages would flash up alerting viewers that scenes of nudity or extreme violence are about to appear. The Independent Television Commission is also considering toughening up verbal warnings given out at the start of programmes.

The ITC stressed the proposals were at an early stage and, if accepted, could not be introduced "overnight".

Poor readers gain in summer schools

By John O'Leary, education editor

HALF of the children attending the Government's first literacy summer schools made six months' progress in three weeks, according to an evaluation of the project to be published today.

More than 1,500 pupils who had failed to reach their expected reading level before transferring to secondary education attended the 50 schools in July and August. The scheme is to be expanded tenfold next year.

The results of this summer's experiment have been a closely guarded secret, with even the schools involved unaware of their pupils' scores. Critics predicted that 11-year-olds would make little progress through further exposure to teaching methods which had already failed them.

But tests carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research have shown some schools registering dramatic progress. At Halewood School in Liverpool and Windsor High School, Salford, up to 60 per cent of children improved their "reading age" by more than a year.

In the 50 schools, 95 per cent of eligible pupils attended the full three weeks. The NFER report finds that their confidence in reading was raised significantly. The results show that up to nine pupils out of ten attending the summer schools improved their reading scores. All were at the level below their expected reading age in national curriculum tests taken in May.

Bob Salisbury, the head teacher of Garibaldi School, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, which ran one of the summer schools, said: "The sceptics insisted that the kids wouldn't stay the course, parents wouldn't support it and teachers wouldn't be interested. We found quite the opposite; it worked remarkably well from day one."

The Government launched the programme with £300,000 originally earmarked for the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation.

The size of the scheme was doubled subsequently after a £250,000 donation by News International, publishers of *The Times*.

☐ State school pupils are to have lessons in citizenship and democracy, under proposals launched by David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday.

Sir Bernard Crick, professor of politics at Birkbeck College, London, is to chair a group making recommendations on the content.

هكذا من الأصل

Yah boo! Mud pies fly in the playground

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

INTO the moral swamp they made their special habitat, the Tories drag Labour for a spot of mud-wrestling. The trouble with mud-wrestling is that you get muddy. The Tories already were. Now Tony Blair is spoiling his clean suit.

At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday he thrashed around in sticky contention with assorted opposition MPs. William Hague took flying kicks but never quite floored him. It was a backbencher, Philip Hammond (C, Runnymede & Weybridge) who got him with a half-Nelson, belly-down in the slime.

Mr Hague's first attempt at an armlock was silly. Blair said Labour had "returned" Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million. Hague asked when. Funds would be transferred within days, said Blair. To Tory sniggers, Hague snorted that it has only taken a few minutes for "returned" to be rephrased "*will be* returned".

This was the moment for a playground chant from William and his gang, "*nyer-nyer-ny'nyer-nyer*". In mudfighting terms, a well-aimed mud pie, no more.

Hague now moved to two substantial charges. One was to ask why, when Blair claims he had decided to reject gifts from Mr Ecclestone, he then wrote to Sir Patrick Neill, QC, the Commons watchdog, asking whether he should. Hague's second complaint concerned an apparent inconsistency between something Peter Mandelson had said, and something said by the Prime Minister himself.

Blair seemed to wriggle, but wriggled free. The uninitiated scratched our heads. It reminded me of the time Margaret Thatcher came under fire over Westland helicopters and, losing track of detail, most of us lazily concluded that something somewhere was rotten, but we were unlikely to get to the bottom of it.

Then came another mud pie. Mr Mandelson claimed last week that Labour had acted properly, Hague told Blair, but was now claiming that the party's behaviour was "out of character."

Tories fell about. This was a good mud pie, but it was still a mud pie. Blair then wrongfooted Hague by demanding he name past Tory donors. "Have-a-go" Hague had now gone his maximum permitted six rounds with 'Squeaky-clean' Tony, and was called off.

Then a young mud-wrestler few had noticed before climbed into the mud-pit to take Tony on.

Philip Hammond looks rather like a Moss-Bros "suits-you-sir" sales assistant. His question, however, was sharp. Succinctly, he repeated Hague's inquiry: how could Blair say he had decided to reject Ecclestone's money, *then* ask Sir Patrick's advice on whether to accept it.

"Having taken the decision," floundered Blair, "it was important that we got his advice as to whether we got the right decision." Mocking Tory laughter. Mr Blair's stickiest moment.

Evidence of his discomfort was provided by an ill-judged swipe at his ally, Paddy Ashdown (he should learn the difference "between opposition and opportunism", sneered Blair); and a wounding but slightly demeaning nose-thumb at a new backbencher, John Bercow (C, Buckingham). Blair (wrongly) accused young Bercow of having last worked for Jonathan Aitken. That got a good laugh from government backbenchers — Bercow irritates them. But do prime ministers need to throw mud pies at small boys?

When Anthony Steen (C, Totnes) remarked, after Blair said he had no plans to visit Totnes, that this was "a great relief", Blair could not resist shooting back: "If I don't come to his constituency, he shouldn't come to mine".

Do you see what I mean about mud-wrestling?

Mandelson admits party abused trust

The Formula One affair prompts an apology from Labour's chief spin-doctor as Hague renews his attack, reports **Philip Webster**

PETER MANDELSON admitted yesterday that the Government had behaved "out of character" over the Formula One affair and risked damaging its bond of trust with the British people.

In a frank assessment of the row that has given ministers their worst moments since the election, the Minister without Portfolio confessed that the Government had not acted openly but had concealed and stalled.

His remarks came on the day that Tony Blair and William Hague clashed in their angriest Commons exchange, with the Tory leader accusing Mr Blair of spinning a "shabby tale of evasion" after the Prime Minister admitted that Labour had not yet paid back its £1 million donation to Bernie Ecclestone.

Mr Blair fought back with the demand that the Tories should, like Labour, be prepared to declare to Sir Patrick Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life all the donors and amounts they had received over the past five years. "No one knows where a penny of Tory money comes from," he said. "Before you get up and criticise the Labour Party ... get up and tell us now where the money comes from, who gave it ... and go back through the five years we are prepared to do."

It emerged last night that Labour's bank, the Co-op, has opened a repayment account and Mr Ecclestone will receive the £1 million shortly. The party has been forced to increase its overdraft.

Mr Mandelson used a speech on communications in the public sector to deliver his admission of failure.

He said: "The Government behaved out of character. We acted against our own principles — that honesty is the first principle of good communications; that quick communications are essential to good government; and that the purpose of communicating is not to stall or to hide but to put in context and to explain."

He said that the Government would only carry through the changes it sought for Britain if it carried the people. He added: "The rock on which that partnership is founded is trust and without openness and transparency in our dealings with the British people there will be no trust."

His remarks follow behind-the-scenes differences in Mr Blair's high command last week over how much information should be made public. Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, was known to have backed full disclosure but other advisers and ministers were not.

Mr Hague repeatedly challenged Mr Blair on his explanation of events. He asked why the Prime Minister had said that he had ruled out further donations from Mr Ecclestone on November 5 but two days later was asking Sir Patrick whether further donations could be accepted."

He then seized on Mr Mandelson's speech. He said that last Saturday Mr Mandelson had claimed the Government had behaved with "complete propriety" but had now said that it had "behaved out of character".

Mr Hague said: "Is it not extraordinary that the Government denied receiving money from Mr Ecclestone and then admitted; denied that it was £1 million and then admitted it; denied that the crucial meeting had been minuted and then published the minutes; denied this House a full account of the matter, which instead has been dragged out piece by piece. denied that you would take further donations and then took advice on accepting them?

"Hasn't your conduct been a shabby tale of evasion which voters in future, when asked to trust you, will not likely forget?" Mr Blair hit back saying that Mr Hague had promised in June to publish a full list of donors, but had so far not published a single name.

The Prime Minister said of Mr Hague: "Before he gets up and criticises the Labour Party, let him get up and tell us now where the money comes from, who gave it to them and let him go back through the five years we are prepared to do."

KIERAN DOHERTY/REUTERS

Peter Mandelson, who used a speech on effective communication to apologise

Leading article page 23

Troops set for Ulster pullout

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE Army is set to withdraw its first troops from Northern Ireland since the IRA ceasefire began in July.

Almost an entire battalion of paratroopers, that was until recently patrolling the streets of west Belfast, will be returned to its base in Dover, starting tomorrow.

The highly-symbolic move comes as Sinn Fein's leaders, facing grassroots anger at their participation in the Stormont peace talks, have intensified their demands for the province's demilitarisation as a confidence-building measure. But security sources insisted the withdrawal merely reflected the reduced threat and was easily reversible. About 400 men would be returned from a total strength of 17,000. A small section of the so-called "urban reinforcement battalion" is to be left guarding the Maze prison.

Today, at a secret London location, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will hold his first official meeting with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, in an attempt to unlock the Stormont talks. Mr Trimble will challenge Mr Ahern to abandon Ireland's territorial claim to the north. If that happens "other avenues of co-operation open up", UUP officials said last night.

☐ Lee Clegg, the paratrooper fighting to overturn his conviction for murdering Karen Reilly, 18, a Belfast joyrider, won a small victory yesterday when Northern Ireland's Appeal Court ruled new forensic evidence produced by his lawyers admissible. Clegg's third and final appeal was adjourned until January 12 when his defence team will call expert witnesses to explain the new evidence.

BLAIR BACKS FAMINE MEMORIAL

Tony Blair made a significant gesture to Irish nationalists last night when he agreed to provide financial support for the first memorial in Britain to victims of the Great Famine. The Prime Minister, who said over the summer that London had failed the people of Ireland during the famine, said in a letter to Kevin McNamara, Labour's former Northern Ireland spokesman, that he welcomed plans for a memorial in Liverpool.

Million-pound bonanza for 300

Continued from page 1

fall. However one of the best known City figures missed out the bonanza. Nicola Horlick, who became known as "superwoman" for her ability to juggle five children and a high-flying career, made her reputation at MAM before leaving in 1991. In May she recruited John Richards, one of MAM's most senior managers, to join her new operation at Société Générale, the French bank. The move is thought to have cost Mr Richards millions in share options.

The bid from Merrill Lynch is the culmination of one of the City's greatest success stories. MAM started life as the fund management operation of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, and came into its own only in the mid-1980s.

Under the guidance of Ms Galley — said to be the most powerful women in the City and known as the ice maiden — and Mr Zimmerman it won a reputation for agression and success. That attracted local councils and many big firms, including BAA and Unilever, to put MAM in charge of their pension funds. Seven years ago it looked after £32.3 billion of funds; now it manages more than £104 billion.

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£10 million for Galley

IN BRIEF

Non-stop Sinatra family evicted

A mother with two children is being evicted from her council house after the teenage boy next door complained that her non-stop playing of Frank Sinatra records stopped him doing his homework. Jeanette King, a divorcée, was given 28 days yesterday to leave the three-bedroom terraced house in Bournemouth, Dorset.

Hooligan plan

Powers to lock up football hooligans before international matches may be revived before the next World Cup. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, told the *New Statesman* that only such serious measures could prevent British hooliganism in France next year.

Jail suicides

Two prison doctors and a guard were criticised by an inquiry into the suicides of three women at Cornton Vale prison, Stirling. But Sheriff Principal John Maguire stopped short of finding that the jail had not taken reasonable steps to prevent the deaths.

Teacher cleared

A primary school teacher has been cleared at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court of assaulting five pupils, aged 10 and 11, on her first day at a new school. Ann Curtis, 42, had been accused of pushing and shaking the pupils at the school in North Kensington, London.

Hunting rally

An estimated 800 hunting enthusiasts gathered in Parliament Square to urge MPs to vote against a Bill threatening to ban their sport. The Private Member's Bill, introduced by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, is to receive its second reading next week.

Stalker sentence

Eileen McLardy, 51, a mother of three from Coventry who stalked her former university lecturer after sexual harassment claims against him were disproved, was given a one-month suspended sentence for breaching a court order restraining her from harassing him.

E-coli increase

The number reported in Britain to have become ill with *E. coli* bacteria has almost doubled in a year, the Public Health Laboratory Service said. Over 90 per cent of the cases involve people infected abroad, but those catching the illness here has more than doubled.

Byron treasure

Lord Byron's pearl-decorated musical snuffbox, for which he paid a jeweller in Old Bond Street, London, £105 in July 1813, fetched £67,725 at Christie's in Geneva. The lid of the box opens to reveal a woman playing the harp and piano surrounded by male singers.

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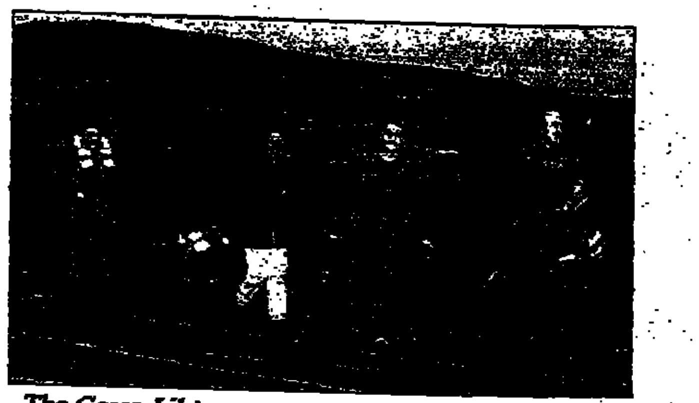
Helicopter winchman lost in rescue



The *Green Lily's* crewmen are brought ashore by helicopter

Colleagues cut safety wire as squalls lash craft after 15 crewmen are taken off refrigeration ship wrecked on rocks. **Shirley English** reports

THE search was suspended last night for a helicopter winchman lost off Shetland while rescuing ten crewmen *from* a wrecked cargo ship in 70mph gales.

Bill Deacon was swept into the sea by giant waves *seconds after* he had helped to attach a coastguard rescue wire to the final seaman from the stricken vessel *Green Lily*.

It is understood the safety wire linking him to the helicopter had to be cut by his colleagues, although the circumstances that led to the decision are not yet known. One report said the wire *had* snagged and been *lost* when a sudden squall struck the Bristows S61N helicopter, on contract to *Shetland* coastguard. Huge waves were breaking over the ship, which had been forced onto cliffs *on the east side* of the island of Bressay at 2pm.

A four-hour search for Mr Deacon in darkness and atrocious weather was called off at 7pm. A coastguard spokesman said it was *impossible* to see anything as gale force winds whipped up oil-laden spray and debris from the wreck. "We *have not* given up hope, but it is now four hours since he went into the water. The search has been *called off* reluctantly, but will start again at first light tomorrow. At the moment conditions are so *bad there is nothing we can do.*" The coastguard helicopter and an RAF helicopter had joined Lerwick *lifeboat and coastguard volunteers* in the search for the missing man.

Mr Deacon, who was said to be very *experienced and highly* trained, was washed overboard shortly after 3pm. He was employed by Bristows and had worked as a helicopter winchman on contract to coastguards in the north of Scotland for many years. It is believed *he* may have been providing holiday relief for Shetland *coastguard*.

Bob Driver, regional coastguard controller, said: "It is difficult to *put a time on his chance of* survival. We will carry on searching until all hope is exhausted. We still have hope at the *moment*." Bristows were last night trying to contact Mr Deacon's family.

It is understood the winchman had been lowered from the helicopter to the ship to help the 10 remaining Croatian and Filipino crewmen to escape as their vessel, which was carrying fish, began breaking up and leaking 240 tonnes of oil. Five other crewmen had been rescued earlier by the Lerwick lifeboat, which pulled alongside the *Green Lily* in 30ft seas *and* snatched them to safety. Eventually it had to withdraw because of the waves.

Although the helicopter hovered over the heaving seas, searching for Mr Deacon for several mintues *after he was lost, it eventually had* to take the survivors to Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick. The crew then *flew to* Sumburgh airport to refuel and collect a new wire and a replacement winchman before *returning* to the scene.

The coastguard had been alerted eight hours earlier, at around *7.30am, when it received a distress* call from the refrigerated cargo vessel saying its engines had failed *nine miles off Shetland. Throughout* the day three tugs attempted to stop the *Green lily* going aground, but after numerous attempts to attach tow lines failed, it was driven onto rocks. The ship, owned by a Norwegian company and registered in the *Bahamas*, was heading for Spain.

The weather caused havoc across *Scotland. Electricity* engineers were working to restore power to 900 people on five of the *outer Orkney islands. Last* night two other islands, Westray and Shapinsay, were still not connected and were *expected* to spend a second night without power. In Dumfries and Galloway, in the *coastal* village of Isle of Whithorn, part of a house collapsed into the *sea as* the owner slept in the other *half. John McWilliam, 58, was* woken by his daughter in the morning.

GRAEME STOREY

The coastguard helicopter hovers close to the wreck of the *Green Lily* on Bressay, searching for Bill Deacon before heading for hospital with the rescued seamen

'He was a hero. He gave his life'

Eyewitness report on the rescue, by *Shetland News* journalist Jonathan Wills

THE ship went aground near a boulder beach between cliffs on the *uninhabited* east coast of Bressay, 1½ miles from the nearest road. The wind was so strong *it* was hard to stand up. Taking shelter behind an old peat bank, I could see the helicopter hovering above the ship as she rolled heavily, broadside on to seas about 20ft high.

***As I watched,* the bows struck a rock and she swung round head-on to the seas. I saw someone hanging on to the wire below the helicopter and being winched up. *At first, I thought it* was the winchman, but in fact he was still on board. It must have been the *last* of the survivors.**

Then I saw the helicopter turn and come back round for another lift. *I thought I saw* someone on the wire. Then the helicopter wobbled noticeably, *just as the ship did a violent roll* from side to side. I thought the rotors were going to hit the masts. The waves burst right over the stern of the ship.

When I could see the chopper again, there was no sign of anyone on the line. That must be when they snagged the wire on the rigging and had to cut it away. The winchman was a hero. The conditions were terrifying, particularly after the ship hit the rocks. But he stayed on board until he *had made* sure everyone was safe. He gave his life for them.

At first, I couldn't understand why the helicopter hung around for the next ten minutes or so, apparently searching for someone or something in the water, which was now turning purplish black with oil. Now I know they were looking for the winchman.

The lifeboat coxswain, Hewitt Clark, was also very brave. I saw him repeatedly take the lifeboat under the lee side of the ship to snatch crew *from the rail. It* was an extraordinarily courageous and skilled piece of seamanship.

Rugby schoolboy, 16, flies to West Indies suffering exam nerves

By Paul Wilkinson

A FIFTH-FORMER at a public school abandoned his studies to fly alone to Barbados, apparently suffering from examination nerves.

Now police on the tropical island are searching for the teenager *who is believed to* have joined up with a drop-out artist called Ryan O'Neil whom he *met on an* earlier holiday in the Caribbean.

Fenn Chapman, 16, pulled *out of his preparations* for GCSE trials next week at Rugby school in Warwickshire without telling his parents or teachers that he was going. Reports suggested he had borrowed cash from his schoolfriends to pay for his flight.

By the time staff reported him missing at 4pm on Tuesday, he was *already in the air* on a flight from Manchester. A spokesman for Warwickshire police *said:* "We are very keen to trace this boy, and obviously his parents are extremely worried about *him* too. He has committed no offence and it is purely concern for his welfare.

"We understand he went to Barbados in the summer with his parents and it appears he was *quite enchanted* with the place. He will also know his way around to some extent because he's been there before. *There is some suggestion that* he may be suffering from exam-related stress."

Yesterday a *schoolfriend* called Dave said: "It is the talk of the school. He just wanted *to get away from the opressive* atmosphere of this place. It didn't suit him and he needed to get away *from* everything that was getting him down.

"He is a very popular lad and a real individual. He plays the tuba in the school band, plays rugby for the school colts A side and was also due to be in a school play of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, though I don't suppose he'll be in that any more. He *also played in his year's* cricket team.

"I say good luck to him because he's doing what he wants to do, and if he comes back he'll probably be kicked out."

Another pupil, who described himself as a "very close *friend*", said: "He needed to get away to find his inner self. That's what he told me. He is *one of the greatest people* I've ever met."

The pupil has been at Rugby for three years, where fees for the 760 pupils are £4,240 a term.

Yesterday his father told journalists who called at the family's isolated farmhouse at Askwith, near Otley in West Yorkshire: "I have absolutely *nothing to say.*"

Graham Hedges, a maths teacher and director of communications *at Rugby, said:* "Naturally the school is very concerned for his wellbeing, and we await *his* return eagerly. I have no idea why he went.

"If he does return to school I am not sure what will happen. We will have to judge that if and when it happens. All we know at the moment is that he flew from Manchester to Bridgetown yesterday and that he has booked a return *flight* for December 3. We know of no reason why he would do this."

Ralph Middlebrook, coach at the Yorkshire Indoor Cricket School at Headingley in Leeds, said: "He is a big, strapping lad; fearsome in fact. Although he only came here when school allowed, he showed great promise as a quick bowler and I found him *to be a pleasant, industrious* lad. He is a bit of an all-rounder because he plays *rugby as* well. *He put his* heart and soul into training and I wouldn't like to tackle him in *full flight.*"

Lottery to offer jackpot of £25m

By Carol Midgley

THE National Lottery, which *has created 447 millionaires* since its launch in 1994, will offer this weekend a guaran*teed jackpot prize of £25 mil*lion, its biggest, to mark its third anniversary.

***Camelot said the Saturday* prize was likely to entice extra players, which could make the jackpot even higher.**

More than 11,615,900,000 tickets have been sold since the National Lottery started and about £6.4 billion paid out in prizes. Sixty-five per cent of the population are regular players and the average spent on a game is £3.15.

Initial estimates put the sum raised for charity, heritage, arts, *sports* and the millennium celebrations at £9 billion. Despite the lottery's *success*, Camelot has been accused of making too much profit, milking money that could have bolstered good causes. Accusations of "fat cat" salaries have been levelled at the directors.

The five boards responsible for distributing the cash have also come under fire for awarding grants deemed elitist or too politically correct.

The Government will soon publish the National Lottery Bill which, it hopes, will *boost the game's image.*

Boys blind cat with laser pen

Susan Aiston and Jack, now blind

A *PET cat has become* the latest victim of a laser pen attack, after being blinded by a gang of boys.

Four boys, aged *about* 12, *took turns* to shine the laser into the cat's eyes. The attack, in a garden at Winlaton, Tyne and Wear, was witnessed by two younger boys who ran to try to help the cat. The gang threatened to use the pen on them too but they eventually alerted *the pet's owner* Susan Aiston.

She took the cat, called Jack, to a vet in Newcastle, who confirmed that the *animal had lost* its *sight*.

Mrs Aiston, who had taken the cat in as a stray, has reported the attack to the RSPCA. It *has* begun an investigation but police say they cannot detain the alleged culprits because the witnesses, aged 6, are too young to be reliable.

She said: "It is impossible for any *decent human being to understand how* anybody could inflict such deliberate cruelty on a helpess animal. Jack is a *lovely, friendly, creature who would* have happily gone to these little monsters as he was playing.

"The poor cat was screaming and must have been in appalling pain. The vet told me the backs of his eyes have been completely burnt out."

There have been several calls by MPs to ban laser pens, whose infra-red beam can be 100 times stronger than the sun's rays. *Bus drivers* and shop workers have been attacked.

If you tell your girlfriend, will she think less of you?

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always *choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy* and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is *the very problem you want to discuss.*

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Halifax	0.50%	1.00%
Nat West	0.25%	0.25%
Midland	0.40%	0.40%

Source: The Research Department Ltd. Abbey National rates quoted gross C.A.R. All other rates quoted gross p.a. All financial information is checked for accuracy on a weekly basis.

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Room at the top for People's Banquet

Andrew Pierce on why the royal couple will be dining with WPC, a farmer and a factory worker

Guests for lunch: clockwise, WPC Shields, community police officer of the year, the jockey Walter Swinburn, lifeboatman Brian Bevan, and the boxer Frank Bruno

DOWNING STREET'S celebrations for the golden wedding anniversary today will break with tradition with the first People's Banquet for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Tony Blair, as part of his plans to modernise the institution of the monarchy, agreed with Buckingham Palace an informal tone for the lunch for 350 guests.

While Westminster Abbey will emphasise tradition with the largest gathering of kings, queens and minor royals since the Coronation, ordinary people who will take precedence by the side of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the banquetto symbolise the changes which the Prime Minister is determined to effect on the Royal Household.

The royal couple will, if the weather permits, walk from pre-lunch drinks in Downing Street across Whitehall to the Banqueting House. The conventional, long top-table has been dropped. Two round tables, which seat ten, have taken their place with the Prime Minister and the Queen on one and Mrs Blair with the Duke of Edinburgh on the other. Diplomats, government figures and royalty have been stood down in favour of what Downing Street described yesterday as a "sprinkling of ordinary people".

The jockey Walter Swinburn will sit beside the Queen at the top table. On the other side of the Queen will be Helen James, 25, from Llandegfan Anglesey, a guide leader for five years, who has been in the same unit since she was seven. She is a member of the Guide Association's Junior Council.

Others at the table will include WPC Gillian Shields, 34, from Wetherall, Carlisle, whose work in her local community on the troubled Raffles estate earned her the title of UK community police officer of the year, and Laurie Dennis, 53, from Gateshead, a team leader in the maintenance department at the Nissan factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Cherie Blair will host the other lead table, with the Duke of Edinburgh on the one side with Brian Bevan, 50, the most highly decorated lifeboatman in the country. The other guests include Jill Willows, a farmer from Maltby, near Rotherham, and Brian Bevan, 50, the most highly decorated member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

Organisations which received invitations were been encouraged to send lower ranking members rather than their "top brass", Downing Street said. "The Queen has made clear that she wanted a guest list which reflected the contribution which people from ordinary walks of life had made to British life. It is part of her desire to recognise the contribution they have made."

> ‘It is also a tribute to the people of the estate. The vast majority are lovely’

The worlds of sport and entertainment will be represented by boxer Frank Bruno, sprinter Linford Christie, hurdler Sally Gunnell, England cricket captain Mike Atherton, comedian Rowan Atkinson, singers Sir Cliff Richard and Shirley Bassey and the model Heather Mills, who won plaudits for her bravery after losing a leg in a traffic accident.All the other guests will be seated round tables seating between eight to 10 to maintain an informal atmosphere.

WPC Shields, 34, who has three children, said yesterday: "It will be a very proud moment for me and the community policing team in Carlisle. It is also a tribute to the people of the Raffles estate. The vast majority are lovely, honest, decent people."

Mr Dennis, 53, has two children and three grandchildren, and works in the mainteance department at Nissan's factory in Washington, Tyne and Wear. He found it hard to believe when the letter arrived from Downing Street announcing he was having lunch at the Banqueting House in the presence of the Queen. He said: "It must be like winning the lottery. I am in a state of shock."

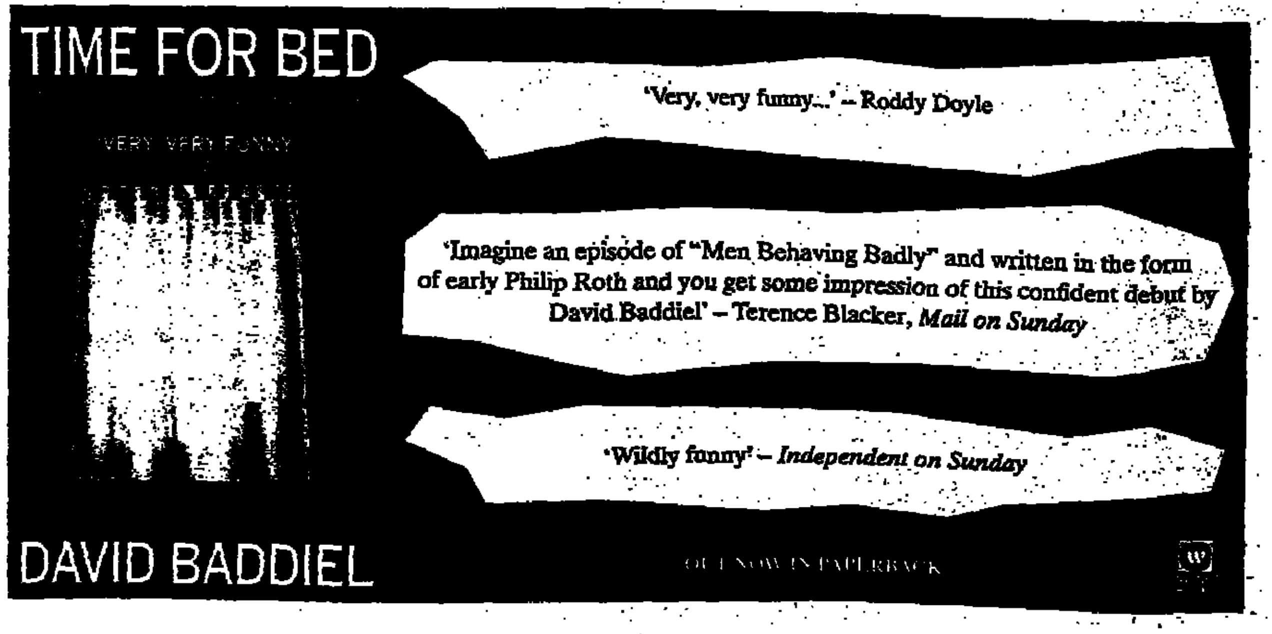
Mr Bevan, 50, the lifeboatman on the second top table, said: "I am very proud and honoured. When I got the invitation three weeks, ago I did't realise the Queen and the Duke would be there. But last night I got a call from the Prime Minister's secretary telling me that I will be on one of the top tables with Mrs Blair and the Duke."

Jill Willows, who will be sitting beside the Duke of Edinburgh, farms 550 acres of arable land around Maltby, Yorkshire. She said: "I have never been to any royal event before."

☐ *Additional reporting by Joanna Bale and Paul Whittaker*

GILL ALLEN

Staff at the People's Palace restuarant examine a copy of the menu (salmon and beef Wellington with hazelnuts and shallots) enjoyed by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh after last night's gala at the Royal Festival Hall



TIME FOR BED

'Very, very funny...' – Roddy Doyle

'Imagine an episode of "Men Behaving Badly" and written in the form of early Philip Roth and you get some impression of this confident debut by David Baddiel' – Terence Blacker, *Mail on Sunday*

'Wildly funny' – *Independent on Sunday*

DAVID BADDIEL

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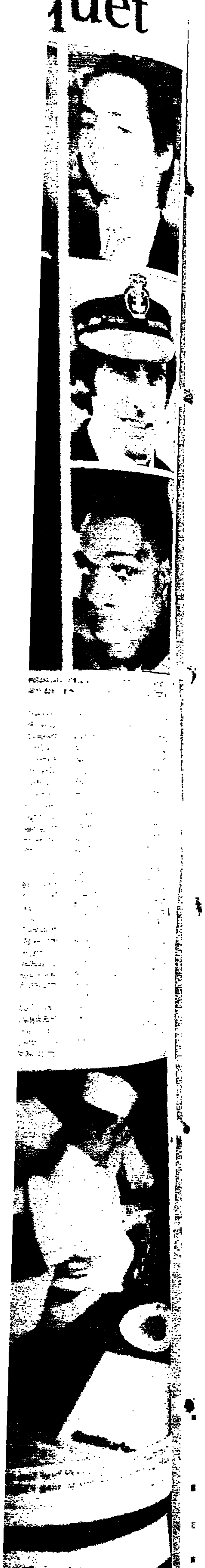


Royal gossip reigns as the crowned heads come to town

In charge or in exile, the Queen's guests have much to talk about, writes Damian Whitworth

THE royals of Europe have not had such an opportunity to catch up on family gossip in almost half a century. The gathering of more than 50 foreign royals, including seven monarchs, will be the biggest gathering of the extended clan since the Coronation.

After the Queen's golden wedding service at Westminster Abbey today, the Prince of Wales will take the throng of his distant cousins by boat to Greenwich for lunch at the Royal Naval College. Coaches will then transport them to Windsor Castle for a ball.

With such a crowd in town, it has not been possible to put everybody up at Buckingham Palace. Some will be staying at Windsor while the younger bloods are understood to be on board *Britannia* by Tower Bridge under the supervision of Prince Edward. Others, such as King Constantine and his family and Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, will stay at their London residences or with friends.

The Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish, Yugoslavian and Romanian royal families are descended, like the Queen, from the grandmother of europe, Queen Victoria. The Bulgarian and Belgian houses are from Prince Albert's side, the Saxe-Coburgs, while the Grand Duke of Luxembourg is a little more distantly related to the Windsors, tracing his descent to George II. The only foreign royal family from outside Europe is that of King Hussein of Jordan, who is represented by his sons, Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Prince Abdullah, and their wives.

Even if the royals themselves struggle to put names to faces on first encounters, they will have plenty to talk about once the ice has been broken.

King Michael of Romania, the only crowned guest today who was also crowned and present at the wedding, may have mixed memories of 1947. He returned to his country afterwards to find that the Communists had seized power and he had to flee in the clothes he was wearing to Switzerland, where he now lives.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Queen Anne, and his daughter Princess Margarita, an old flame of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. She is married to the memorably named Ruda Duda, who should get on famously with Prince Edward. He is a lecturer at the Academy of Theatre and Film in Bucharest.

In these days of modernisation, the royal houses will have plenty of stories to swap. Some will provoke sympathy, others, perhaps, envy. As *Britannia* prepares to complete her final voyage, the Duke of Edinburgh may be a little green if that other passionate sailor, King Harald of Norway, speaks of his own royal yacht, a gift just a few years ago from his subjects.

As the guests admire the restoration of Windsor Castle, which the Queen paid for herself, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark might explain how it was that the recent £14 million overhaul of her Copenhagen palace was funded by the public purse.

If our Queen is looking for tips on 1990s style, she might have a natter with Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, whose private wealth makes her one of the richest women in the world, but who never wears a crown and rides a bicycle.

The younger generation may whisper more scandalous yarns. Princess Martha-Louise of Norway, 26, was the first European royal to be cited as the "other woman" in the English High Court after her friendship with the show-jumper Philip Morris. Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark spent a night in a police cell when he was arrested on New Year's Eve 1991 for drinking and driving.

Many will have stories to tell of their ordeals at the hands of the press. Queen Beatrix's son, the Prince of Orange, was dubbed the Prince of Fun by the Dutch press. The 30-year-old bachelor was then targeted by the animal rights lobby, who complained about his love of boar hunting. They claimed that the beasts suffered unnecessarily because he was such a bad shot that he succeeded only in wounding them.

But the gathering should take heart from some tales. King Simeon of Bulgaria succeeded his father at the age of six in 1943 but was exiled by the Communists in 1946. He lives in Madrid, but when he returned to his native country last year he was given an ecstatic reception by half a million people who are now agitating for his permanent return.

Leading article, page 23

PRINCIPAL ROYAL GUESTS

The King and Queen of the Belgians
Queen Fabiola of the Belgians
King Simeon and Queen Margarita of Bulgaria
Crown Prince and Princess of Bulgaria
Prince and Princess Kyril of Bulgaria
The Queen of Denmark and the Prince Consort of Denmark
Crown Prince of Denmark
Princess Benedikte and Prince Richard of Wittgenstein-Berleburg
The King and Queen of the Hellenes
Princess Irene of Greece
Crown Prince and Princess of Greece
Prince Nikolaos of Greece
Prince Philippos of Greece
Princess Alexia of Greece
Princess Theodora of Greece
Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania of Jordan
Crown Prince El Hassan and Princess Sarvath of Jordan
The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg
Prince Henri and Princess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg
The Queen of The Netherlands and Prince Claus
The Prince of Orange
The King and Queen of Norway
Princess Martha-Louise of Norway
King Michael and Queen Anne of Romania
Princess Margarita of Romania and Mr Ruda Duda
The King and Queen of Spain
The Prince of Asturias
The Infanta Dona Elena and the Duke of Lugo
The Infanta Dona Cristina and the Duke of Palma de Mallorca
The King and Queen of Sweden
Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Yugoslavia

RUSSELL BOYCE

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the Lord Mayor's luncheon at Guildhall yesterday

'Tolerance is essential to a marriage'

An edited version of the Duke of Edinburgh's speech at the Guildhall luncheon yesterday

WHEN there is lots to do, time seems to fly. It appears to us, at least, that we have been fairly busy over the last 50 years and the time has simply flashed past. Until, that is, you start looking back and try and recall what things were like 50 years ago and you begin to realise how much has changed . . .

I got back to this country from the Pacific in January 1946 and then in the autumn of 1947 we got married. It was a fairly drab world; the post-war recovery had hardly even begun and practically everything was still rationed. Everyone seemed to think that our wedding was a very happy occasion and brought a little colour back to life after the dreary war years. At any rate, we certainly thought so.

We were then fortunate to enjoy five happy years of fairly conventional married life. That included two years with a home of our own in Malta while I was with the Navy. This period came to an abrupt end when The Queen had the melancholy duty of succeeding her father after his premature death in 1952. She was 25 and I was 30 and we had two small children. Life changed dramatically in many ways, but it had much less effect on our married life than I anticipated. After an interval of ten hectic years, we had two more children and were more or less settled into our new way of life.

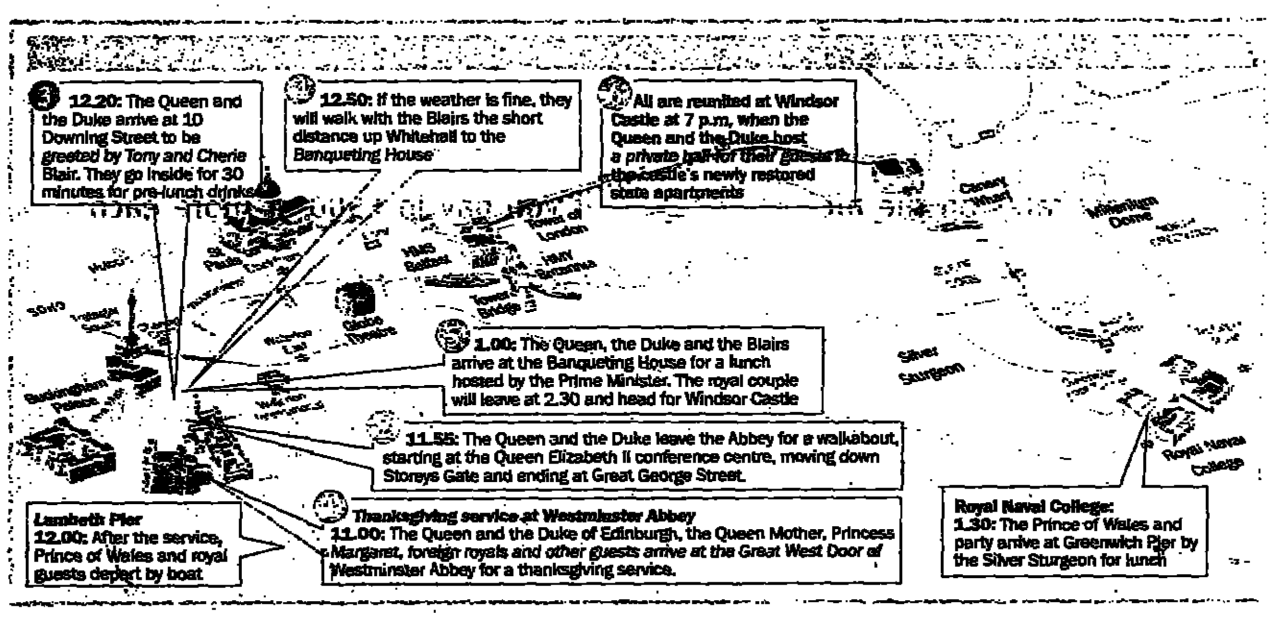
Like all families, we went through the full range of the pleasures and tribulations of bringing up children. I am, naturally, somewhat biased, but I think our children have all done rather well under very demanding circumstances and I hope I can be forgiven for feeling proud of them. I am also encouraged to see what a good start the next generation is making.

We would both like to acknowledge that it was only through the kindness and consideration of so many people in all walks of life that we managed to get through those early daunting years of added responsibilities . . .

There are a number of positions in our society, which are greater than the individuals who happen to occupy them for the time being. The position of hereditary Head of State in a constitutional monarchy is just one of them . . . People who find themselves in such a position have to learn to accept certain constraints and to accommodate to that grey area of existence between official and what is left of private life. But they also discover that it gives them quite exceptional opportunities to serve the interests of their communities and the nation at large.

In such circumstances much can be done by an individual, but I am sufficiently old-fashioned to believe that a great deal more can be achieved by a partnership in marriage. It has been a challenge for us, but by trial and experience I believe we have achieved a sensible division of labour and a good balance between our individual and joint interests.

After 50 years' experience, I find there is great temptation to give advice. The trouble is that no two marriages are alike. However, I think the main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient of any happy marriage. It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when the going gets difficult. You can take it from me that The Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance . . .



12.20: The Queen and the Duke arrive at 10 Downing Street to be *greeted by Tony and Cherie* Blair. They go inside for 30 minutes for pre-lunch drinks

12.50: If the weather is fine, they will walk with the Blairs the short distance up Whitehall to the *Banqueting House*

All are reunited at Windsor Castle at 7 p.m, when the Queen and the Duke host *a private ball for their guests in* the castle's newly restored state apartments

1.00: The Queen, the Duke and the Blairs arrive at the Banqueting House for a lunch hosted by the Prime Minister. The royal couple will leave at 2.30 and head for Windsor Castle

11.55: The Queen and the Duke leave the Abbey for a walkabout, starting at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, moving down Storeys Gate and ending at Great George Street.

Thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey
11.00: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, Princess *Margaret, foreign royals and other guests arrive at the Great West Door of* Westminster Abbey for a thanksgiving service.

Lambeth Pier
12.00: After the service, Prince of Wales and royal guests depart by boat

Royal Naval College:
1.30: The Prince of Wales and party arrive at Greenwich Pier by the Silver Sturgeon for lunch

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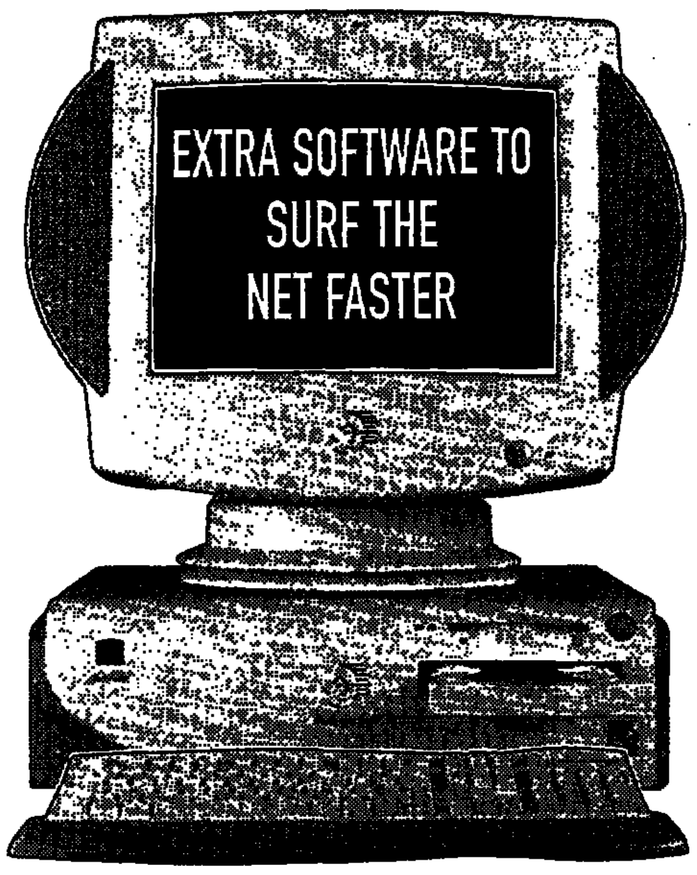

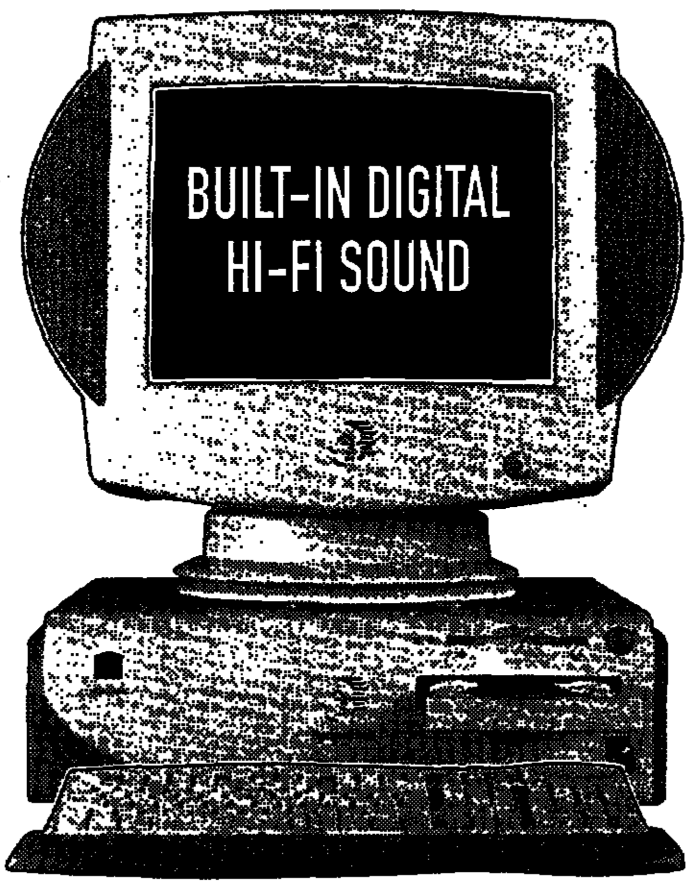

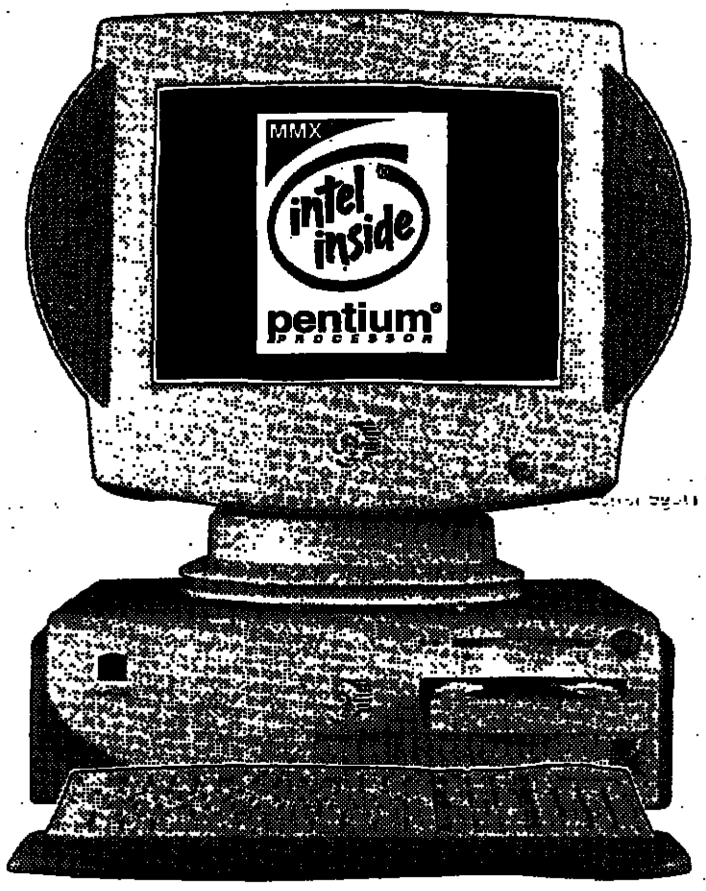

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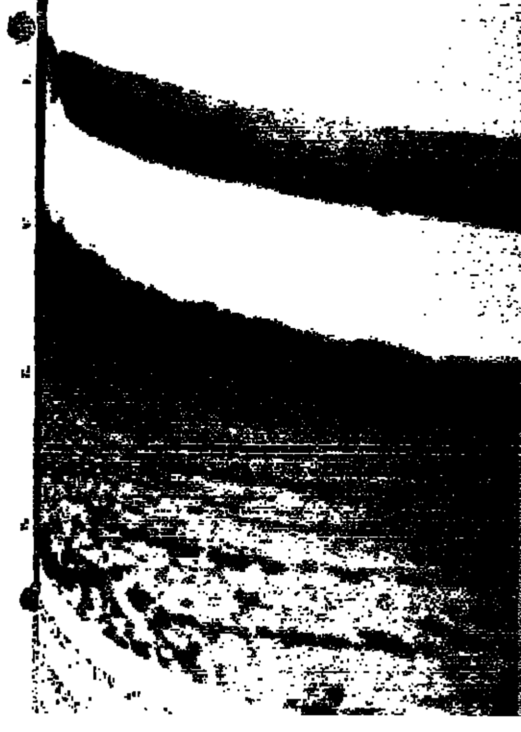

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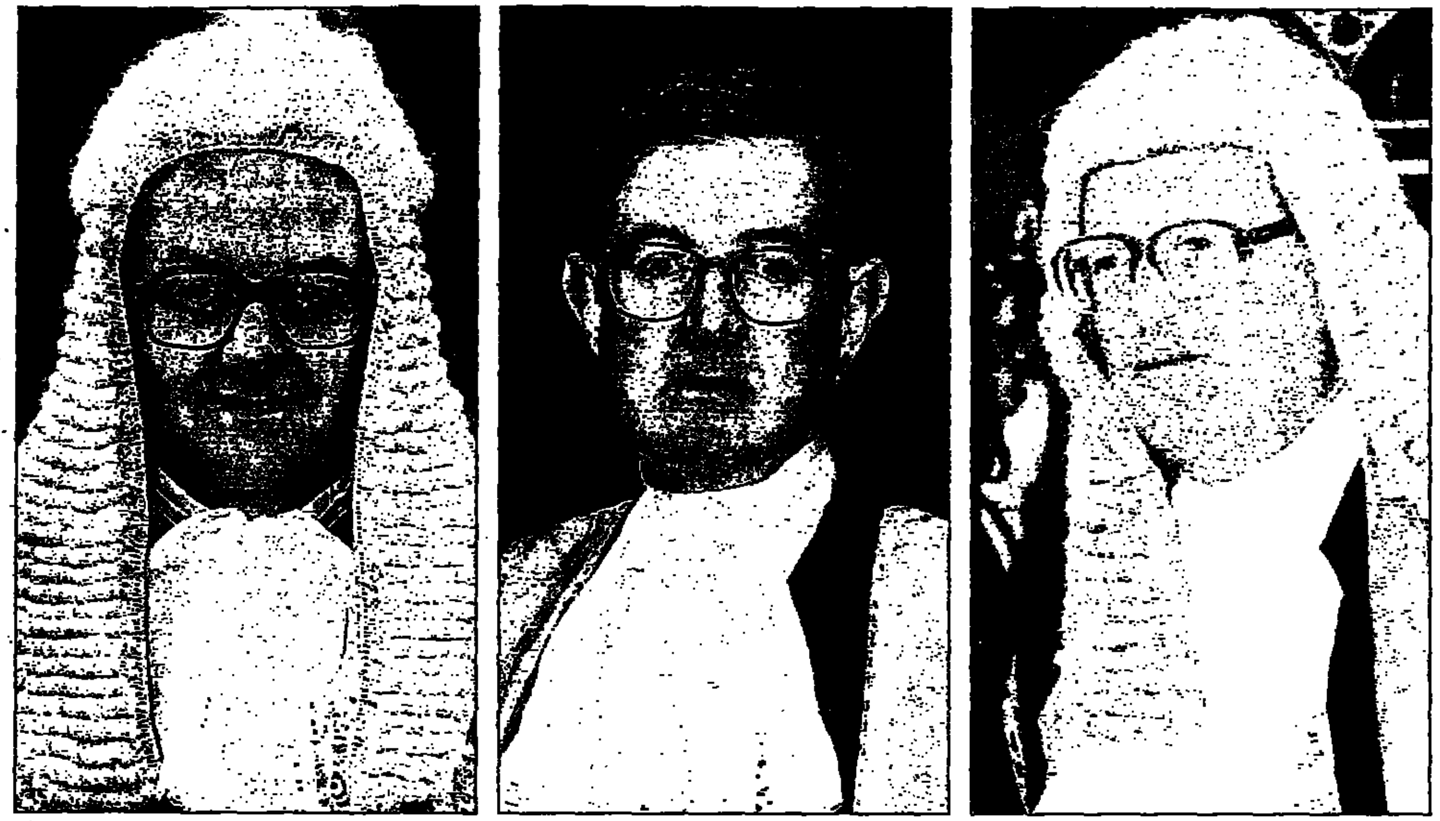
Court backs girl who refused adoption

11-year-old returned to her mother after foster parents of three years fail in all-or-nothing bid for another daughter. **Frances Gibb** reports



Lord Justice Judge, left, and Lord Justice Ward, centre, ruled against adoption while Lord Justice Simon Brown dissented

A GIRL aged 11 is to return to live with her natural mother on a council estate after rejecting adoption by the middle-class couple who have fostered her for three years.

The couple, both academics from the affluent north side of Oxford, said at a hearing last month that they would not continue to foster the child unless they were granted the right to adopt her. They were in the Court of Appeal yesterday to hear judges say that they would not order the adoption against the wishes of both the girl and her mother.

The decision means that the girl, at present living with her foster parents, will be returned to her mother, who lives on the sprawling Blackbird Leys estate in Oxford and who has successfully battled against heroin addiction and alcoholism.

The judges, by two to one, held that although the couple could continue to foster the girl, they would not sanction her adoption. In his judgment, Lord Justice Judge appealed to the couple to "find the necessary resources of character and humanity, and the simple affection for her, to allow the girl to continue the progress she has made towards a fulfilled and happy life from which she would have been excluded if they had not offered her their home as her home".

But Fiona Hay, their counsel, told the court that the result of the judgment was that the foster parents were not prepared to keep the girl. "The fundamental problem is that a mere residence order is not acceptable to this couple and remains unacceptable, notwithstanding your lordships' judgment. They are extremely unlikely to change their views as a consequence."

The judges said there should now be a High Court hearing "of some urgency" to make arrangements for the girl's return to her mother.

The foster parents declined to comment after the hearing. The girl's mother welcomed the decision. Her solicitor, Mark Phillips, said: "She thinks the decision is the best one for her daughter and the one her daughter would have wanted." Mr Phillips added that despite the court proceedings, a feature of the case had been the "very good relationship between my client, the natural mother, and the adoptive parents".

The girl was fostered by the couple in 1994, the year after she was taken into care, aged 7. Lord Justice Ward said it came as a "bombshell" to them that she did not want to be adopted, although she had said as much throughout her placement. He added that the "unfortunate feature" of the placement was that the local authority, Oxfordshire County Council, "failed lamentably" to prepare for it, and there was little awareness on its part of the girl's "persistent cry that she wanted to live with her mother" and little work done to explore her true wishes.

The mother went to the Court of Appeal after a judge at Oxford County Court ruled that it was in the girl's best interests for her to be adopted. Judge David Morton Jack said that after the foster parents stipulated they would settle for nothing less than adoption that the mother's consent should "be dispensed with on the grounds that it was being unreasonably withheld".

Mark Everall, QC, for the mother, told the Appeal Court that the county court judge had failed to give sufficient weight to the wishes of the mother, her daughter, or the local authority, which had given evidence that adoption was not in the child's best interests. The girl herself, who had "unquestioning love for her mother", felt she was being adopted against her will, but the judge had concluded her feelings were based on "longings and fantasy".

Yesterday, Lords Justices Ward and Judge, Lord Justice Simon Brown dissenting, overturned the county court ruling and substituted a "residence" order for the child to live with the couple, which they intend to defy. No sanction is available to stop them from defying the order.

Lord Justice Simon Brown, in an unusual request, asked to be told the final decision on the girl's future in six months' time so that the judges knew "what the upshot of it all is and how everyone is managing".

Apology over jailed PC

LAWYERS for *The Times* apologised to a judge at the Old Bailey yesterday after he expressed dismay at reports of the conviction of a London policeman for assault. PC Paul Evans was jailed for six months on Tuesday on one count of common assault for beating Ben Swarbrick, a student, after a rock concert in May 1994. He was not convicted of the more serious charge of kicking Mr Swarbrick 20 times, as *The Times* twice reported. On this he was acquitted.

Judge Graham Boal, QC, said that the mistake was first brought to his attention before Evans was sentenced, but he had assured the court that his sentence was based on the jury's findings, not on the report in *The Times*. Yesterday, after the mistake was repeated, the judge said that PC Evans was entitled to an accurate report. He was also concerned that the public might be dismayed to read that a judge at the Old Bailey had sentenced the policeman to six months for kicking a member of the public 20 times.

Counsel for *The Times* said the reporter had not been in court when the first mistake was brought to the court's attention. The follow-up story was obtained from a news agency which made no reference to the judge's remarks. The judge said that he accepted the apology. He said: "Indeed, I understand we all make mistakes."

From broken home to adult break-ups

THE MOTHER

THE girl's mother was the victim of a "tragic" upbringing, Lord Justice Ward said. "Her parents separated when she was young. She was sexually abused from the age of 5. As a result she lost contact with her mother, who was an alcoholic.

"She had minimal contact with her father. She had little formal education, truanting extensively from the age of 11 until leaving school at 15." She married at 16 and had two children. The marriage failed three years later "due to the husband's drinking and subjecting the mother to violence".

At 19, she formed a new relationship and had two further children. For three years there was relative stability. Then, encouraged by her partner, she started to experiment with drugs. By 23, she was a heroin addict, supported by crime. The girl in the court case suffered from withdrawal symptoms when she was born, weighing 5½lb. The mother and father were jailed when she was aged 4, and she was in a grandmother's care until the mother's release the next year. In 1992, the mother entered a refuge to escape her partner's violence. She turned to another man, who had his own drink and drug problems. In 1993, the girl, then 7, found him dead from an overdose. The mother was too incapable to do anything about it. It was the girl who contacted emergency services. The mother's drunken behaviour continued, the judge said. The girl was removed in 1993 and a care order followed. Despite a rehabilitation plan, the mother relapsed, and the girl was removed in June 1994, aged 8.

Shortly afterwards, the mother began to live with another man, aged 41. He too abused drugs and alcohol, and had a criminal record including robbery, burglary and assault, but the couple made "commendable efforts to change". They stopped drinking in January 1995. By July 1996, the mother had weaned herself off methadone, and the man was reducing his intake.

Together, they cleaned up and decorated their flat, the judge said. "For the first time, says the mother, she has found a partner who is prepared to participate in the responsibilities of family life." They have a daughter, born last year, and the couple have satisfied the local authority that she can be removed from the at-risk register. The mother is now 41.

Stable family who offered everything

THE ACADEMICS

THE two academics are both doctors of philsophy and "living in comfortable circumstances with easy access to excellent schools," the judge said. They had lived together for many years in a stable relationship and have a daughter, now 14, but wanted to extend their family.

The man is 43 and the woman is 48. The judge said they were not, as a doctor said in evidence, "among those saintly people — few of us are — who are able to offer fostering to children in need. They wanted a child who they could adopt into their family. One has total sympathy for that position."

The girl in the case was not free for adoption when she was placed with the couple in December 1994, and adoption could not have been seen as a certainty. In planning meetings held by the social services' fostering and adoption panel, "the consensus" was that the legal security provided by adoption would be preferable, but the child's wishes would be influential. If she disagreed, then the court could make a residence order. The couple were aware of the possibility but it must have been remote, the judge said.

The couple and the girl's natural mother "soon established a good and mutually supportive relationship with each other", and the couple "saw the benefits of the girl having contact with the natural family, which was arranged four times a year". In October 1996 the couple filed their application to adopt. They married in order to qualify.

A report by the guardian for the girl said there was "no question of their commitment" to her stability and wellbeing. "She appears happy and relaxed with them despite all that has transpired" and had been "demonstrably affectionate". It was difficult to praise the couple too much for their commitment and the changes they had brought in her life.

"This is demonstrated most powerfully in the progress she has made in school. Although in many respects the match between this initially rather unresponsive and deprived child from a very different background from the applicants does not appear a promising one, it is evident that there is considerable affection and understanding."

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New air quality check comes clean on risks

Better monitoring of pollution will help asthmatics, reports **Nick Nuttall**

MORE accurate smog forecasts covering a greater range of pollutants were unveiled by the Government yesterday.

The changes reflect new research on airborne pollutants, including diesel particulates, which are linked to heart attacks. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said the service would be invaluable for vulnerable groups, including people with breathing difficulties.

Several changes have been made to the forecast service, which is available via the media and on a freephone number (0800 556677). The most important is the addition of particulates, tiny flecks of soot also called PM10s. They are generated by sources including diesel fumes. Particulates settle deep inside the lung and are linked with a wide range of respiratory symptoms. Long-term exposure increases the risk of death from heart and lung disease.

Another addition is carbon monoxide, the colourless, odourless gas pumped out by car exhausts that slows down the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the heart and brain.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said: "People have a right to accurate, comprehensive and timely information on the air they breathe — the system we are launching today makes that a reality.

"I believe that our new system gives people here more access to information on national air pollution levels than anywhere else in the world."

"Transparency in Government means taking action — action like this which enables people to judge our progress in achieving our air pollution goals every hour of the day and night; and enables them to play their part, for instance by avoiding that journey by car on days when pollution levels are high."

Campaigners and green groups have been pushing for an improved service amid claims that the old air quality information system, brought in by the previous Government, was misleading and hid true levels of smog.

Often it would describe the air quality as being good when at least one pollutant hazardous to asthmatics or those with heart conditions was breaking health guidelines.

Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air, said: "After years of campaigning we now have a pollution information system that the public can trust.

"We will be urging local authorities to adopt this system for local information campaigns. Lack of trust in the previous system meant that different authorities devised their own information and alert thresholds."

Tony Bosworth, of Friends of the Earth, called the system an improvement. It was up to the Government, along with local authorities and transport operators, to devise a strategy for responding to high pollution days.

CATEGORIES SET OUT DANGER TO HEALTH

THE new service, called the air pollution information service rather than the air quality service, will rate pollution levels as low, moderate, high and very high.

The previous system rated the air as very good, good, poor and very poor. The rating system and advice to vulnerable groups have also been designed to reflect better the health findings from a cross-departmental group, the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution, chaired by Stephen Holgate.

Low means: "Effects are unlikely to be noticed by individuals who know they are sensitive to air pollutants."

Moderate means: "Mild effects unlikely to require action, may be noticed among sensitive individuals."

High means: "Significant effects may be noticed by sensitive individuals and action to avoid or reduce these effects may be needed (eg, spending less time in polluted areas outdoors). Asthmatics will find that their inhaler is likely to reverse the effects."

Very high means effects on the sensitive may worsen. "The risk to healthy individuals is very small at all levels of air pollution likely to be experienced in the UK. However, because the 'very high' band has no upper limit, it is possible that individuals not usually sensitive to pollution may notice effects, including eye irritation, coughing and pain on breathing deeply."

Nicola Vincent: she did not take the prescribed medicine for food poisoning

Daughter died after meal made by father

By Ian Murray

A GIRL aged ten died of food poisoning three days after eating a summer Sunday lunch of egg salad. An inquest was told that unlike her mother, who also became ill after the lunch, the girl had not taken the medicine prescribed by a doctor.

Nicola Vincent was a healthy youngster with an aversion to pills and treatment in general, her mother, Christine, told the Norwich Coroner on Tuesday.

When they both became ill two days after eating the egg salad, which had been prepared by her husband, David, a doctor was called to their home in Norwich and gave them medicine. Mrs Vincent took it, went to bed and woke to find her daughter motionless. Nicola was taken to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and placed on a life-support machine, but died later that day.

Tests showed that she and her parents had been infected with the same *Salmonella enteritidis* bacteria. Sara Branford, a food safety officer, said that the source of the poisoning had not been traced. A verdict of misadventure was recorded.

It is rare for young, healthy people to be killed by salmonella poisoning.

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Girl's murder checked against other killings

By Simon de Bruxelles

DETECTIVES seeking the killer of the Exeter schoolgirl Kate Bushell said yesterday that they were examining possible links with other murders. Details of the killing of the fair-haired 14-year-old as she walked a neighbour's dog will be compared with unsolved cases.

Detective Superintendent John Smith, deputy head of Devon and Cornwall CID, said: "We are looking at all outstanding murders in the country. It is possible he has struck before."

A criminal psychologist yesterday joined the 120 officers working on one of the biggest investigations by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Richard Badcock, of the National Crime Faculty at Bramshill police training college, Hampshire, will draw up a personality profile of the likely killer. Mr Smith said: "It is possible the man who killed Kate knew her but it is more likely he was a stranger. We have been looking at people who have committed offences in the past, particularly sexual offences."

Detectives renewed appeals for sightings of an apparently bloodstained man seen running from the area of the field where the girl's father found her with her throat cut on Saturday night.

The man vanished into an estate. Detectives are also trying to trace a man seen beside a blue van in the lane who may have seen the killer.

They are checking security videotapes from shops and the nearby St David's railway station and have used the new Register of Sex Offenders to trace known paedophiles living in the area. Police are to show a video of thegirl acting in a village hall morality play. They hope it will jog memories.

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Children in care still suffering appalling abuse

By Mark Henderson

CHILDREN in care continue to face appalling sexual and physical abuse from staff, foster parents and peers, despite a succession of government inquiries, according to a report published yesterday.

People like Us, the report by Sir William Utting ordered in June after abuse scandals in homes in North Wales and London, found evidence that serial child abusers were evading vetting procedures and causing misery for thousands of children in residential care and foster homes. Recommendations made by previous inquiries aimed at rooting out abusers had not been fully implemented.

Children were sent to inappropriate homes because of a lack of places; runaway children were often returned to their abusers, and more than a third of those in care received little or no education. Private fostering and small residential homes and schools often escaped all regulation.

Sir William recommends setting up a national agency to oversee the care system, regulation of private fostering agencies and small residential homes, and an expansion of facilities.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said he would chair a ministerial task force to consider the findings. "This report presents a woeful tale of failure at all levels to provide a secure and decent childhood for some of the most vulnerable children," he said in a Commons statement. "Elementary safeguards were not put in place or not enforced."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said the Conservatives would give "positive and constructive consideration" to government moves to resolve the system's failings.

The 8,000 children in residential homes in England and Wales and the 33,000 with foster parents are at risk because vetting procedures fail to spot serial abusers who torment hundreds of victims. Sir William says that measures recommended by the Warner report into the care system in 1992, including rigorous checking of criminal records, employment history and references, had not been implemented in many homes.

Children in private foster care, which currently escapes local authority regulation, were "extremely vulnerable and at very considerable risk of abuse". Those cared for at residential institutions with fewer than four residents were also at risk because such homes were exempted from the provisions of the 1989 Children Act.

Data protection laws prevented social services exchanging information on suspect carers, and staff who suspected colleagues of abuse feared victimisation by managers if they reported their misgivings, or found they were not believed or were ignored.

Staffing was a "chronic problem", training often inadequate, and a lack of choice was leading social services to place children in inappropriate kinds of care. Vulnerable children had been sent to homes where they were bullied by "fearsome" peers or foster siblings because of the poverty of care resources available to local authorities. Provision varied widely between councils.

Sir William, chairman of the National Institute for Social Work, makes 20 recommendations, including a national strategy to raise standards across the care sector and to protect children let down by the system.

Sir William Utting, who makes 20 recommendations, found those made earlier had not been fully implemented

Similar advice in the Warner report was ignored by the Government.

He says local authorities should ensure enough residential and foster care is available to provide correctly for every child; foster parents should be appointed in line with a new code of practice; and private fostering should be regulated. Unregistered foster care should become a criminal offence. Other recommendations include requiring staff to raise concerns they may have about colleagues' behaviour, and allowing care agencies to exchange information on staff more freely.

Children's charities welcomed the report yesterday and said it was important that its recommendations were implemented. "All children living away from home are vulnerable to abuse, and these measures are constructive and workable," Mike Taylor, director of children's services at the NSPCC, said. "What concerns me is that successive Governments have ordered these reports before and done little about them. We can't let that happen this time."

The National Association for Foster Care said it supported Sir William's recommendations for recruitment and registration of private agencies.

☐ *People like Us* (Stationery Office; £25). A free summary is available from PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7NL.

One third are left without education

MORE than a third of children in care or with foster parents are receiving no education, says the report. Education authorities and social services departments fail to co-operate over their needs, and head teachers concerned about league table positions are reluctant to admit pupils from problem backgrounds.

The establishment of *grant-maintained schools* independent of local education authorities is said to have compounded the problem by making it harder to involve schools in drawing up care strategies.

"*It produces a scandalous* situation in which the life prospects of these young people may be irretrievably damaged," says the report. Local authorities are urged to take a corporate approach, ensuring education and health needs as well as *supervision* and accommodation.

Care arrangements for the 110,000 children at independent boarding schools in England and Wales receive a largely clean bill of health, although a ban on corporal punishment is demanded, after evidence that brutal canings still take place on the margins of the public school network.

☐ A Barnardo's survey this year found that 75 per cent of children in care left with no educational qualifications.

£18m network of juvenile jails planned to counter criticism

■ The Home Office is to convert up to eight young offender institutions after a report attacked the treatment of teenagers, Richard Ford writes

THE Home Office is planning a network of jails for juveniles after the publication yesterday of a critical report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons on the treatment of offenders aged under 18.

Up to eight young offender institutions are to be converted to hold 2,600 teenagers aged 15-18, who often have to mix with older and more experienced offenders.

The £18 million proposal to detain juveniles separately from adults was announced yesterday as Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector, called for all offenders under the age of 18 to be removed from jails and looked after by a separate youth justice organisation. Its members would be drawn from the social services, probation service and voluntary organisations. He said that prisons were not equipped to handle teenage boys and girls, some as young as 15, or to tackle their problems and criminal behaviour.

Sir David condemned the conditions in which many young offenders were detained "as a lottery", with too many locked in their cells for 23 hours a day with little education or exercise. In a survey of the treatment of young offenders in England and Wales, he discovered one institution where inmates were tracing pictures, and cutting out pieces from children's colouring books and colouring in outlines drawn by others.

He said: "More damage is done to immature adolescents than to any other type of prisoners by current conditions. The vast majority of young people in custody need individual attention given to the problems which produced their criminal behaviour.

"If all they get is akin to being stored in a warehouse, then the chances of their reoffending, creating yet more victims, is very great indeed."

Sir David said his plan to remove under-18s from prison to be looked after by other bodies, such as social services and voluntary organisations, was not a "soft option". He told a press conference at the Home Office in London: "The soft option is to do nothing. To lock people up for 23 hours a day is the easy option. The hard option is to challenge these people."

There are 2,643 youngsters aged 15-17 and 8,357 aged 18-21 in adult prisons or young offender institutions, according to the latest figures.

Richard Tilt, Director General of the Prison Service, said his officials were preparing plans for seven or eight jails, each holding about 300 teenagers aged 15-18, in England and Wales. "We have started work to create a separate under-18 estate out of existing facilities by nominating certain young offender institutions as under-18s only," he said.

But he gave a warning that, by creating a separate estate for the 15-18 age group, some young offenders would be held further away from their homes. Mr Tilt said that it was estimated that the extra costs involved in providing a regime targeted at the teenagers would be about £18 million a year.

His figures are based on the current annual cost of the intensive programme developed at Thorn Cross young offender institution near Warrington. That was £23,000 per year per place, compared with £16,000 in an ordinary young offender institution and £100,000 in some local authority secure accommodation.

Under the Warrington regime, young offenders have a daily 16-hour programme beginning at 6am. The regime includes cleaning duties, drill, education, anger management courses, physical education, working for charity and eventual work experience.

☐ *Young Prisoners:* a thematic review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (published by the Home Office)

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MAGAZINE

Mystery of the trawler lost without trace

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

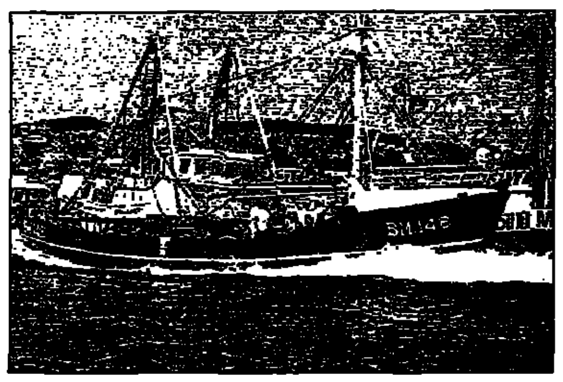
MYSTERY surrounded a trawler feared lost off Land's End last night. The vessel with four crew carried a satellite distress beacon designed to trigger automatically if it sank. So far, it has remained silent.

Coastguards called off the search yesterday for the 70ft Cornish vessel *Margaretha Maria*, which was due back into port at Newlyn on Monday night after a week's fishing. The owners appealed for the search to continue, but a coastguard spokesman said: "We have nowhere left to look."

The crew of the blue-and-white trawler included John Todd, who was 46 on Tuesday, and his son Kerry, 24, from St Buryan. John Todd's wife Moira and younger son Niall, 21, were being comforted by relatives last night.

Robert Holmes: vessel's skipper

The vessel was skippered by Robert Holmes, 43, known locally as Scots Robbie. He has two sons aged 21 and 17, and a girlfriend, Rose Williams. The fourth missing crew member, Vincent Marshall, from Penzance, is married with three young children. There had been no radio contact with the boat since she set sail on Tuesday last week.



The *Margaretha Maria*: search was called off

A Nimrod aircraft from RAF Kinloss in Scotland scoured the 2,500 square miles of fishing grounds between 30 and 150 miles south west of Land's End on Tuesday and sighted debris. A helicopter from RAF Culdrose identified it as green fishing nets and red fish boxes, which could have been swept overboard from a number of fishing boats in recent heavy seas.

Other fishing boats and the fisheries protection vessel *HMS Barclay* joined the search, but with force-eight gales forecast and no specific area to search, coastguards have decided not to send the Nimrod out again.

Godfrey Adams, manager of Trelawney Fish, owners of the boat, said yesterday: "We are very disappointed the search has been called off. We felt it could have continued. We understand the weather conditions are due to deteriorate later, but we did give the coastguards a smaller area we would have liked to see searched. It's far too early to cease the search.

"The crew are all very experienced fishermen who have been fishing out of Newlyn for some time. All are very good people. We are in constant touch with the crew's families. With all the rough weather, she may be holed up somewhere with a broken radio. We certainly hope so."

DAVID BRENCHLEY

The women who wait: from left, Moira Todd, Rose Williams and Tracy Marshall

In 1995 another Trelawney Fish boat, the *Provider*, sank off the coast of north Devon with the loss of three crew. The port of Newlyn was subdued and sombre yesterday with small knots of people discussing the news.

The coastguard spokesman said that they would continue to broadcast appeals for sightings of the missing vessel. He said: "We have called off the search because we don't know where else to look. It's possible the vessel is sheltering in a small harbour, but we simply don't know. We will continue the search by electronic means, trying to contact the trawler on the radio and asking other vessels to keep a lookout for her." The Newlyn harbourmaster, Andrew Munson, said that there were reports that other vessels had been in radio contact with the *Margaretha Maria* while she was operating 30 to 40 miles south of her home port. The area has been hit by gale-force winds in the last few days, but other vessels continued to operate without difficulty.

Newcastle kicks out football stadium proposal

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a £65 million super-stadium to house the Newcastle United soccer team have been scrapped in the face of mounting opposition to the club's preferred site on green-belt land close to the city centre.

Newcastle had hoped to build a continental-style sporting club encompassing the city's rugby and ice hockey sides as well as athletics and other sports.

But their chosen site at Castle Leazes Moor, close to their St James' Park ground, outraged local opinion, upset by the demise of a central green oasis which had been open to the public since medieval times. It is also within a conservation area.

Last night the city council, which had supported the scheme and offered assistance in drawing up a planning application, was being told the project was dead. The controlling Labour group had agreed to go against its own development plan for the city after Sir John Hall, the millionaire developer who was then club chairman, threatened to move out of the city to a site across the Tyne in Gateshead.

Before last night's meeting neither side would comment publicly on the plan's future.

It is understood that the club had thought the scheme would be popular and had not envisaged the huge level of opposition from local pressure groups such as No Business on the Moor and Friends of Leazes Park who were backed by the Friends of the Earth. They gathered 18,0000 signatures on a petition opposing the scheme. The Northern TUC also came out against the development.

The club also feared a lengthy and costly public inquiry and business analysts felt the enormous cost to the recently floated organisation would hit its stockmarket valuation.

Further, with the arrival of pay-per-view television only a few years away, many obervers questioned the need for a huge stadium when supporters could stay at home to follow matches.

It is understood that the club will redevlop St James'Park by adding an extra tier, increasing its current 36,500 capacity to around 45,000.

Lesley Harrison, of No Business on the Moor, said: "Hopefully this will be the end of them planning to build on Leazes Moor. Thousands of people go there every day and it is a popular attraction."

Football, pages 48, 49 & 52

Open verdict on burnt mother

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE death of a mother who was abducted by two men, bundled blindfold into a car, doused with petrol and then set alight on the steps of a church may remain a mystery for ever, an inquest was told yesterday.

Tracey Mertens, 31, was taken from the flat she shared with her common-law husband and two children in Birmingham, blindfolded and driven in a yellow Ford Escort by two men to Christ Church, in Eaton, Cheshire.

She suffered appalling burns and died in hospital 24 hours later on Christmas Eve, 1994, after giving detectives an account of what happened. But a senior police officer told the inquest in Macclesfield, Cheshire, that although the inquiry had generated 1,800 statements and 2,000 interviews, detectives were unable to corroborate her account.

Mertens: was doused in petrol and set alight

John Hibbert, the coroner, said it was clear that Ms Mertens had died of burns but he recorded an open verdict "reluctantly" because there was insufficient evidence.

After the hearing Barbara Mertens, the dead woman's mother, made an appeal for witnesses to come forward. She said: "We were rather upset at the verdict but there couldn't be any other."

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VEMBER 20 1997

Newcastle kicks out football stadium proposal

Gary Glitter arrested in child porn inquiry

By Simon de Bruxelles

INDECENT photographs of children have been seized by police investigating claims that the veteran pop star Gary Glitter was in possession of child pornography.

The pictures were discovered at a London address after staff at a computer store claimed to have found explicit pictures of children on a computer that the performer had taken in for repair. Mr Glitter, whose real name is Paul Gadd, was arrested at PC World in Bristol when he arrived to collect it.

While he was being questioned, officers searched his homes in Somerset and London and seized a number of videotapes as well as "numerous indecent photographs of children".

Mr Glitter, who is divorced with two children, was bailed to report back to a Bristol police station in January. A police spokesman said: "We can confirm that a 53-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing computer child pornography. He has now been released on police bail pending further inquiries concerning indecent photographs of children. Officers searched a house at Wedmore in Somerset, using powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and a number of videos were seized.

"I can also confirm that we have searched an address in London and videos and numerous indecent photographs of children have been seized. The computer in question is being held by police and will be examined later by experts."

Steve Tootle, president of the Gary Glitter Official Fan Club, said yesterday: "All the fans are right behind Gary, and while we don't yet know the full story, the fact he has been released without being charged has, in our eyes, got to say something."

The Old Smithy, Mr Glitter's stone-built cottage in Wedmore, was deserted yesterday. Outside the house discarded computer boxes and packaging were clearly visible, including the box for a modem connector, used to link a personal computer to the Internet.

Neighbours said that he was often seen jogging through the village dressed in black, but generally kept himself to himself.

Gary Glitter shot to fame in the early 1970s with a string of hits including three number ones: *I'm the Leader of the Gang*, *I Love You Love Me Love*, and *Always Yours*.

His "anthem", *Rock 'n' Roll Part Two*, recently featured on the soundtrack of the hit movie *The Full Monty*, about a group of Sheffield steel workers who turn to stripping for a living.

A spokesman for his management company said that this year's ten-date tour, starting in Cardiff on December 9, would go ahead.

Mr Glitter fought back from alcohol addiction and bankruptcy in the 1980s. Recently he has turned to Buddhism and become a vegetarian.

☐ *Additional reporting by Peter Foster and Paul Whittaker*

COMPUTER LAW

Technicians who discovered illegal material in the course of fixing a home computer were within their rights provided they did not break a password or encryption code to get it, a member of Scotland Yard's computer crime unit said yesterday. The officer, who did not wish to be named, said a "grey area" could arise with criminal charges being subject to possible legal challenge if a technician deliberately "hacked" into protected files. He said it was common for computer store technicians to refer suspicious material to police for investigation. Police officers were the only people authorised by law to enter a computer system without authority.

PA

Glitter: shop staff claimed to have found explicit pictures of children on his computer

Sadist gets life after girl's death by torture

By Russell Jenkins

A SADIST who systematically tortured his young girlfriend for up to four weeks before drowning her in the bath was jailed for life yesterday.

James Smith, 49, was found guilty of murdering Kelly Anne Bates, 17, on April 16 last year after keeping her prisoner at the home they shared in Gorton, Greater Manchester.

Mr Justice Sachs told Smith that he was a highly dangerous abuser of women and recommended that he serve at least 20 years before being considered for release. "This has been a terrible crime, a catalogue of depravity by one human being on another."

A post-mortem examination showed that Miss Bates's eyes had been gouged out up to three weeks before she died. She had been burnt, stabbed, partially scalped and starved.

Manchester Crown Court was told that Smith, unemployed, had been clinically diagnosed as a sadist and had a long history of violence towards women.

German device stops drivers steaming up

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A DEVICE that can warm up a car in a few seconds in winter, rapidly defrosting windows, has been developed by German engineers.

The breakthrough may also reduce pollution and engine wear by bringing the engine up to operating temperature more quickly. Cars, even those fitted with catalytic converters, emit large amounts of fumes when the engine is cold.

The device, developed by a team at the Fraunhofer Technology Development Group in Stuttgart, is called LWS for latent heat reservoir.

The heat is stored by a salt that melts at 70C, but becomes solid again at low temperatures. A vacuum bottle full of the salt is attached to the engine cooling system. When the car is running, waste heat is sent through the heater unit, melting the salt, according to the *New Scientist*.

When the engine is turned off, the insulated bottle keeps the salt mostly molten for up to 20 hours even with temperatures outside as low as -18C. In cold weather, when the driver turns on the ignition, engine cooling water is diverted to the salt reservoir where it picks up the heat. "Within a minute the defroster is producing air at 40C," Axel Amann, of the group, said.

The system has been designed so that on very cold days the heat taken from the salt reservoir goes into warming up the inside and demisting or defrosting the windscreen.

But on a typical winter's morning a larger proportion of the reservoir is circulated through the engine, bringing it up to operating temperature more quickly. "This reduce emissions and engine wear," Herr Amann said.

The device is being made by Modine Laengerer & Reich, and it is being offered as an optional extra on some BMW 5-series cars.

Herr Amann says the group took advantage of a phenomenon called phase-change to develop the system. Overcoming the cold start that many cars suffer should help reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides and other pollutants linked with winter and summer smog.

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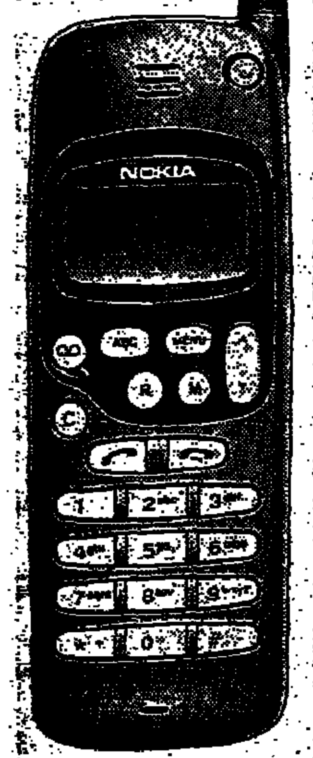

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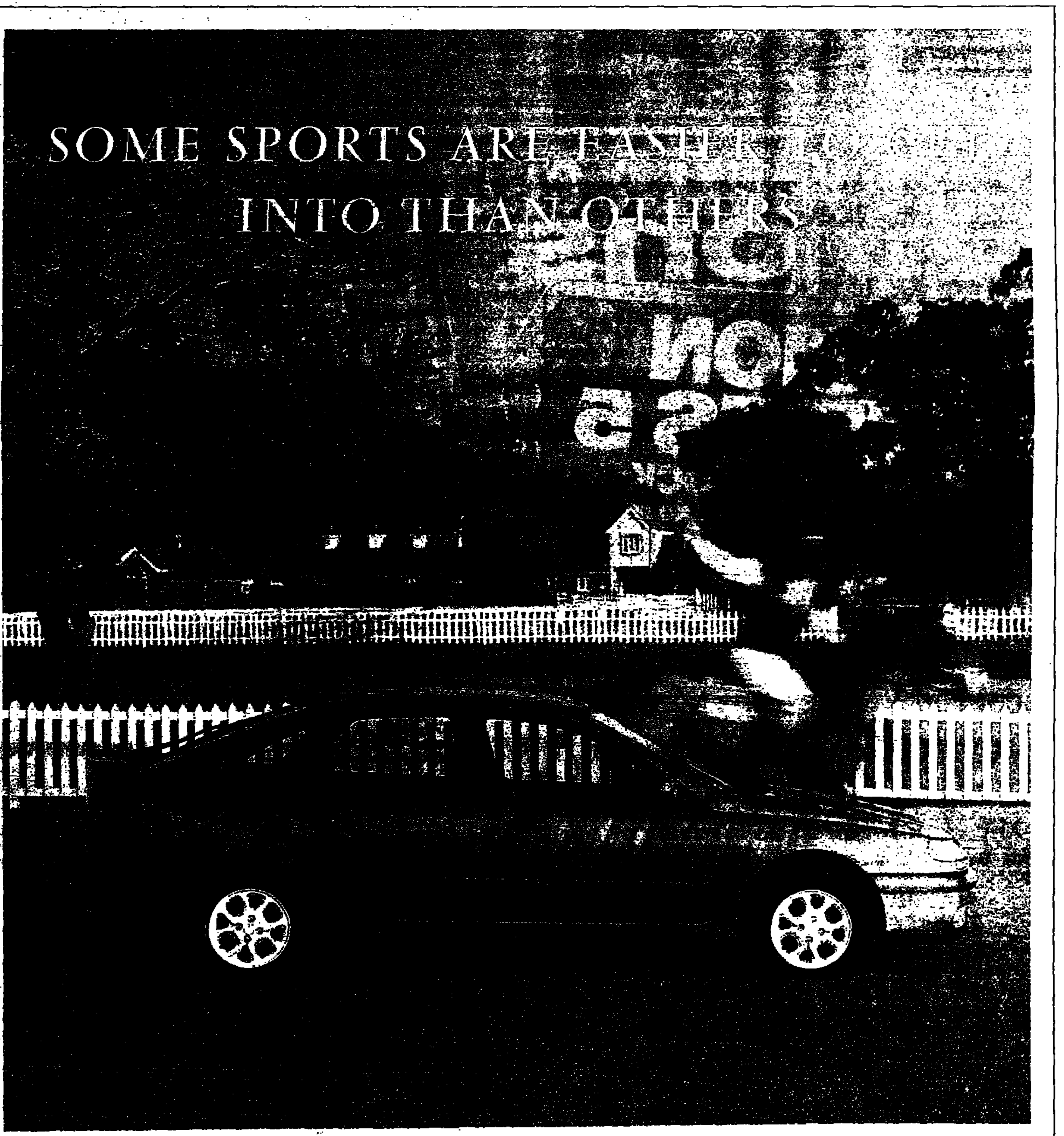

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Judge overrules parents' beliefs to let baby die

Emma Wilkins on the anguish of a Jewish couple over the suffering of their daughter

A BABY girl suffering from a fatal degenerative disease should be allowed to die against the wishes of her parents, the High Court in London ruled yesterday.

Doctors treating the 16-month-old child for spinal muscular atrophy want to withdraw artificial ventilation but her parents, who are Orthodox Jews, object on religious grounds.

The girl, known as C, weighs 12lb and is unable to move her arms or legs. Her suffering will increase before death, which usually comes at 18 months in similar cases, the court was told. She recognises her parents and smiles when they visit her.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division of the High Court, decided that it was in the baby's best interests to let doctors withdraw the ventilation, which would lead to "inevitable" respiratory failure. The parents are prepared for the ventilator to be withdrawn at some stage but want their daughter to be reventilated if she suffers respiratory failure.

"Whilst the sanctity of life is vitally important, it is not the paramount consideration," Sir Stephen said in a written judgment. "The paramount consideration here is the best interests of little C. The medical evidence is not in dispute. There is no issue in this case that this is a fatal disease and that in real terms this little child is approaching death. She has a desperately tragic existence. She is emaciated. Although she is conscious, there is the prospect of increased suffering as the days go by."

The parents, who have other children, are unable to bring themselves to face the "inevitable future", Sir Stephen said. "I have the very greatest sympathy for these unfortunate parents. They are very brave and are seeking to support so far as they can their treasured little daughter.

"But understandably they cannot bring themselves to accept that she should not be reventilated if she should suffer a respiratory arrest."

The girl's mother gave a moving account of the family's objections in an affidavit submitted to the court. "Religion plays an important part in the life of myself and my family," she said. "We are all Orthodox Jews and live our lives by those values. One of the principles fundamental to our religion is that life should always be preserved.

"Another is that someone of our faith cannot stand aside and watch a person die where their intervention could prevent that death. In such a case, the person that stands by will subsequently be punished by God."

Medical evidence was given that life-sustaining treatment delayed death without significant alleviation of suffering. Indefinite ventilation would produce increasing distress and inevitably involve a tracheotomy operation under anaesthetic, which might give rise to epilepsy.

The child was admitted to hospital in March but allowed home after a few days. She was readmitted in July but was well enough to go with her parents to Israel in October. She became ill and has been in intensive care in Britain ever since.

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Dr Moor arrives at the police station. He insists he administered pain relief only

Doctor is questioned on death of man, 85

By A Correspondent

A DOCTOR at the centre of a row over remarks that allegedly supported euthanasia returned to a police station to answer questions yesterday.

David Moor, 50, went to Northumbria Police's Newcastle West End station yesterday afternoon to answer bail, as part of the force's continuing investigation into the death of a cancer patient, George Liddell, a former ambulance driver who died at the age of 85.

Mr Liddell died on July 19. Dr Moor had been at his bedside along with the patient's daughter, Doreen, and her husband Tom, a 65-year-old retired BT engineer. However, the doctor insists that he administered pain relief to Mr Liddell, and not a lethal dose.

Dr Moor said that he was unable to comment when approached yesterday as he left his surgery in nearby Fenham for his appointment with the police officers.

The British Medical Association had urged police to investigate statements made by two doctors. Dr Moor, who has been in practice for almost 30 years, had spoken in support of patients needing help "on the way to a pain-free release from their agony and suffering".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Potter: favourite story

Tailor of Gloucester's shop is sold

The shop near Gloucester Cathedral immortalised by Beatrix Potter as the home of the Tailor of Gloucester has been sold for £75,000 by her publisher, Frederick Warne & Co, to a Cumbrian firm, which plans a major tourist attraction. The story, published in 1903, was Potter's favourite.

Road fire death

Victor Kirk, 56, from Bookham, Surrey, was burnt to death when his Rolls-Royce crashed head on into a lorry whose back wheels had locked up on the A25 at Abinger, an inquest at Woking was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Body found

The body of Colin Randall, 48, of Sheffield, an Open University lecturer, has been found 15 months after he vanished on a family holiday on Cephalonia. His body was found near a footpath. He is thought to have died from a heart attack.

At a premium

An insurance consultant was delivering an accident form to a house at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, when his Ford Mondeo was damaged by a fire engine on an exercise to see if it could manoeuvre down the narrow street.

Lost Web site

An elderly couple drove nearly 100 miles from Portsmouth to BBC Thames Valley Radio in Caversham, Berkshire, to visit their local Web site. They had seen an advert inviting them to visit the BBC Web site, and imagined it was a building.

Film buffs are given chance to take credit for donations

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE British Film Institute is offering members of the public a supporting role in some of the classics of British cinema.

The institute will add an individual's name to the credits of films such as Anthony Asquith's 1952 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, starring Michael Redgrave, and Carol Reed's 1948 *The Fallen Idol*, with Ralph Richardson.

The price of fame is a donation towards preserving the films. For £5,000, a single name will be emblazoned on the big screen; for £500, the name will be added to a group of other donors.

The institute hopes the scheme will raise funds for historic material in the National Film and Television Archive. The films will be shown at the National Film Theatre in London and other institute cinemas.

The scheme will help to preserve films made before the early 1950s, which need to be transferred from the original unstable nitrate base to acetate. Although it was promised lottery cash earlier this year, the institute still needs to raise about £5 million in matching funding.

Among recent restoration projects are Michael Powell's rediscovered *His Lordship*, made between 1931 and 1937, which will be screened on Saturday as part of the London Film Festival.

Anne Fleming, curator of the film archive, said: "We very much hope that people who love and value British film will be persuaded to do their bit and help the archive. This 'hospital for sick films' has saved and restored numerous British greats."

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Jowell struggles to justify tobacco sponsorship move

Committee of MPs requires minister to undergo more questioning, reports Jill Sherman

TESSA JOWELL has been summoned to a Commons hearing next week after failing to satisfy a committee of MPs yesterday on why the Government is backing the exemption of Formula One from a tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Public Health Minister was given a rough ride by the European Legislation Select Committee, which demanded that she return to be cross-questioned for a further two and a half hours at a standing committee that all MPs can attend.

The decision came after Ms Jowell admitted that the Government did not know what proportion of Formula One's income was dependent on tobacco sponsorship and confirmed that health ministers had not met representatives from other sports.

Britain will argue for a permanent exemption for Formula One when European health ministers meet on December 4 to discuss the the EU directive that would ban tobacco sponsorship of sport. However, Ms Jowell hinted that the Government would not vote against the directive if it did not contain the permanent exemption.

Yesterday she faced a series of difficult questions from both Tory and Labour members of the 16-strong committee. But Jimmy Hood, the Labour chairman, made sure that she was never seriously in trouble. When Tories persistently asked questions which she struggled to answer, he intervened to take questions from other MPs.

The chivalrous Mr Hood also took exception when the Eurosceptic Bill Cash (C, Stone) asked Ms Jowell whether she had consulted her husband, David Mills, who has connections with the motor racing industry. Mr Mills, a lawyer resigned as a non-executive director of the Formula One company Benetton Formula on May 20.

Mr Hood tried in vain to deter Mr Cash. Ms Jowell, stony faced, eventually replied: "I would simply say that my husband's previous association with Formula One has been entirely disclosed to the Permanent Secretary and to the Cabinet Secretary. The correspondence is with the Permanent Secretary and the discussion about this directive has been with officials and other ministers."

Earlier Ms Jowell insisted that the Government's present negotiating position was still to exempt Formula One permanently from the ban. But she later hinted that the exemption could be limited if this proved to the only way to reach a common position. She made clear that other countries such as Germany, Austria, Greece, Denmark and The Netherlands were also planning to block the EU directive.

She was asked by Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) whether she was advocating a permanent exemption or simply reporting discussions taking place elsewhere.

She replied: "Our position is that we are seeking an exemption for Formula One from the directive, which means that Formula One would be specifically exempted from the directive."

Quentin Davies (C, Grantham and Stamford) challenged Ms Jowell on why the Government had not sought to discover Formula One's dependence on tobacco sponsorship. "I can't understand how you could make a decision that was rational, or responsible or that was fair based on contrasting the different degrees of dependence of different sports on tobacco sponsorship without having discovered the actual degree of dependence — that's to say the proportion of their total income — which Formula One had," he said.

Ms Jowell replied: "The concern that we have is about the visibility of advertising . . . It's not so much the spending, the money that tobacco companies pay to sport . . . it's the fact that in return for sponsorship money they get advertising."

Leading article, page 23

ANTHONY UPTON

Tessa Jowell setting out for the committee meeting yesterday

Basic state pension may be replaced

By Jill Sherman

THE Government presented its proposals yesterday for a new "stakeholder" pension, which could become a compulsory scheme replacing the present state pension.

The stakeholder pension, intended as a supplement to the basic state scheme, is aimed at the self-employed, part-timers, the low paid and workers on short-term contracts. The idea is to offer an option cheaper than the present personal pensions through pooling savings in schemes based on an industry or occupation.

Several organisations that responded to an initial consultation on pensions have warned the Government that the scheme cannot work unless it is compulsory. Frank Field, the Welfare Minister, is also in favour of compulsion, but this would mean phasing out the state earnings-related pension, which Labour, in its manifesto, pledged to retain "for those who wished it".

A consultation document issued yesterday skirts round the issue but confirms that ministers are considering compulsion. It says: "The Government will respond on the issue of compulsion, as on all major issues raised in the review in due course."

The document also details a proposed Citizen's Pension for those unable to contribute to a second pension, such as long-term carers.

Oxbridge safe with us, says minister

By Polly Newton

THE Government will protect educational standards at Oxford and Cambridge whatever the outcome of a review into funding of the two universities, a minister said yesterday.

Kim Howells, the junior Education Minister, made the promise at the end of a Commons debate on the grant paid annually to Oxford and Cambridge to meet the cost of their collegiate tutorial system.

The Government has asked the Higher Education Funding Council to report before it decides whether to scrap the extra payments, which total some £35 million a year. Critics of the proposal argue that it would reduce the quality of teaching at Oxford and Cambridge, but their opponents say that the additional funds allow an elitist system to continue at the expense of other universities.

The debate was initiated by Evan Harris (Lib Dem, Oxford), who said that the whole of British higher education would be harmed if standards at the two "brand leaders" fell.

But Dr Howells told MPs: "We will do nothing to endanger standards of excellence at Oxford and Cambridge."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY In the Commons: trade and industry questions; Public Accounts Committee reports; short debate on pen needles for insulin-dependent diabetics. In the Lords: debates on various orders; Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Bill, report; treatment by doctors and nurses of terminally ill patients.

Employment summit offers more than well-meaning waffle

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE employment summit of European leaders in Luxembourg should not just be dismissed with a cynical shrug as yet another time-wasting exercise in well-meaning international waffle. Of course, the summit will not of itself create any jobs. But it does mark a significant shift in attitudes within the European Union, away from Brussels-led big spending programmes towards national policies monitored on an EU-wide basis.

In the past, such job summits have been seen in Britain as attempts by the Commission — notably when Jacques Delors was President — to extend subsidies and create expensive programmes. These foundered on opposition from Germany, as well as Britain, on budgetary grounds.

At the same time, the Major Government's repeated public attacks on the European social model irritated other countries — especially France. Ministers flaunted the Anglo-American approach in face of Continental views about "social solidarity", even though policymakers privately sympathised with Mr Major's calls for greater flexibility, competition and deregulation.

The Blair Government therefore came to office at a time when policy had already begun to shift in the rest of Europe. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have been able to bridge the gap with other countries, both in rhetoric, by emphasising social cohesion as well as flexible markets, and, in substance, by putting forward proposals for a more active government role in getting people off welfare and encouraging what is now called "employability".

The new strategy, agreed by finance and employment ministers on Monday, matches the approach adopted in the run-up to monetary union, whereby broad EU-wide guidelines are set out, in this case for improving labour market flexibility and training. The idea of formal targets for creating jobs and reducing unemployment has been rejected at German insistence, but each country will have to produce an action plan setting out how it will encourage entrepreneurship, employability, adaptability and equal opportunities. There will be no additional money and only a limited reallocation of budgets. The results will be reviewed at the Cardiff summit next year. Mr Blair and Mr Brown can fairly point to the influence of their ideas and policies.

We will see how all this is presented at the end of the summit. There is always a danger in Britain of exaggerating the significance of talk by European ministers about social "solidarity" and "social partners". Both the Jospin and Prodi governments regard this is as necessary to persuade trade unions to accept change, including welfare and labour market reforms. That is why the commitments in France and Italy to a 35-hour working week should not be taken at face value. Of course, there are still big differences in attitudes, but the Commission and many member countries now accept that much of the 18 million unemployment in the EU is because of structural rigidities.

The question is whether these moves threaten competitiveness. Mr Blair has been keen to ensure that the social cohesion agenda does not produce extra business costs and new regulations; and he is resisting Brussels proposals on mandatory consultation for business. The Government has already done a lot for the unions, by signing the social chapter, proposing a minimum wage, and promising changes in the law on union recognition. The CBI opposes some aspects, but, in general, has accepted Mr Blair's assurances.

The new approach to be agreed at the Luxembourg summit is, of course, part of the preparations for monetary union. The irony is that, despite the Government's belief that Britain will not be ready for some time to join EMU, we already have a more flexible labour market than elsewhere in Europe and already fulfil most of the employment guidelines.

PETER RIDDELL

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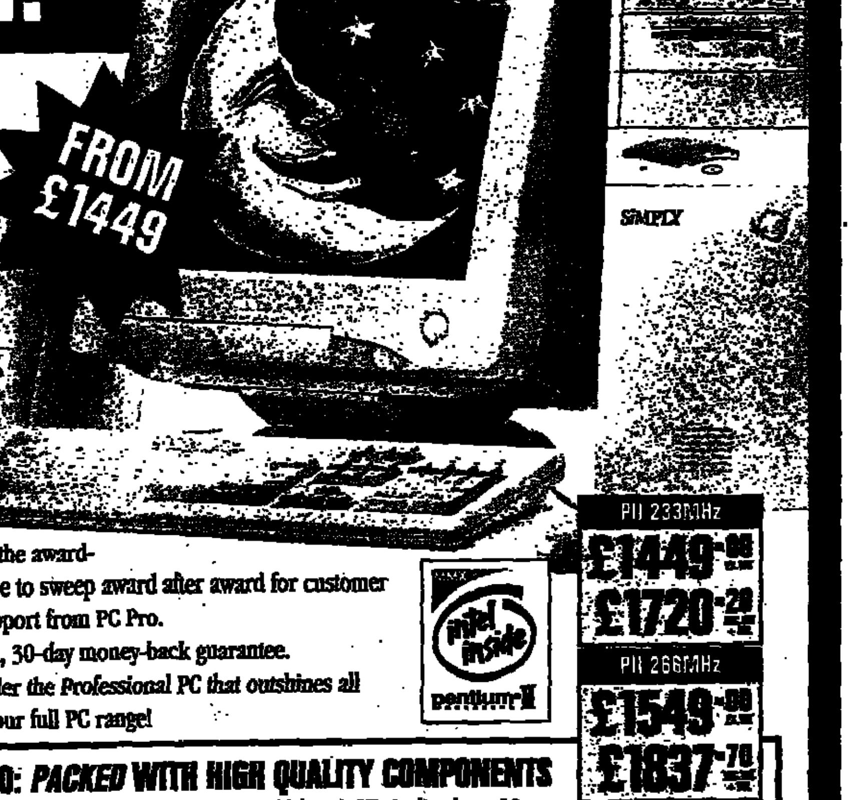

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German leader 'spied for East'

Bonn: The so-called "man without a face", the former East German spymaster Markus Wolf, has identified the late statesman Franz Josef Strauss as a key Cold War informant (Deborah Collcutt writes).

Wolf, 74, told the liberal *Suddeutsche Zeitung* that Strauss, the founder and former leader of the Christian Socialist Union — the sister party to Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats — acted alone and was not paid.

"Strauss was always around when there was good business to be done," Wolf said. "In his time as Nuclear Power Minister in Adenauer's Cabinet, Strauss apparently offered East Germany nuclear material." He died in 1988, when he was Bavaria's premier.

Wolf was this year convicted of three Cold War kidnappings and given a two-year suspended jail sentence.

Paris police swoop on £100m rag trade 'scam of century'

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

HUNDREDS of police officers have launched dawn raids in the Sentier clothing district of Paris in an operation to break up a £100 million fraud ring within the French "ready-to-wear" industry.

At least 80 people were in custody yesterday, after about 300 police officers moved into the warren of wholesale clothing outlets, manufacturers and boutiques in the city's 10th arrondissement early on Tuesday. The investigation, led by Jean-Pierre Albert and Isabelle Prévost-Desprez, both magistrates, has targeted about 60 clothing firms in the Sentier district, but as many as 700 companies may be involved in the fraud, which one investigator called "the scam of the century".

Using a system of false billing and fake companies, the ring is believed to have defrauded at least 17 banks and other institutions of up to Fr1 billion (£100 million).

Last July a group of ten banks tipped off legal authorities that Fr350 million francs had not been accounted for.

One investigator said the ring's technique was "as old as the hills". The bogus companies allegedly presented fictitious receipts and bills from other fake companies to the banks, on the basis of which they extracted credit and cash amounting, in some cases, to as much as £1 million each. Police are also investigating whether bank and credit company staff were accomplices.

The banks, employing private investigators, initially have identified 300 "suspect" clothing companies, but judicial investigators believe that as many as 400 other companies, involved in a second fraud ring, may have taken part in the ruse indirectly.

Most of those under arrest on suspicion of organised theft, fraud and receipt of stolen goods are clothing company owners, whose homes were raided in simultaneous police operations. Some "criminal fires" at warehouses in the Sentier district are also being investigated in connection with the alleged fraud.

Hundreds of documents, files and computer disks were confiscated. "This evidence will be examined in the coming weeks to try to establish the exact dimensions of the theft," a police source said.

The Paris financial investigations group has identified a number of suspect transactions involving the transfer of large amounts of money through international financial agencies in Britain, Belgium and Austria. Some of the defrauded banks believe that the operation was the work of an organised criminal cartel.

"It is hard to believe that such a well-planned affair, involving such a quantity of money, could have been carried out simply to benefit a few individuals," a bank legal director told *Le Parisien* newspaper.

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS / EPA

Flags from the European Union countries fly in Luxembourg to herald the special jobs summit starting today

Blair to prescribe 'caring' cure for EU unemployed

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

TONY BLAIR will offer the caring labour market as the best medicine for European unemployment when EU leaders gather today for a politically risky summit in Luxembourg. The number of jobless is seen as the most glaring failure of the European Union.

The Government, breaking with the usual Euro-script, in which Britain plays the reluctant partner, is enthusiastic about a prescription that Germany and several other states have accepted through gritted teeth. The decision to seek a common strategy for curbing the jobless rate, now at 18 million or 10.6 per cent of the EU workforce, "amounts to a major breakthrough in the way that Europe looks at employment and employability", according to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

After years of resistance to Anglo-Saxon-style reforms, ministers insist Britain is winning the argument and is well-placed, with its EU presidency next year, to nudge Europe towards flexible labour markets and welfare reforms.

Although the Luxembourg recipe has been "precooked" by EU ministers, there is likely to be tension between Britain and France, the other big supporter of EU-wide action on jobs. France's left-wing Government wants the summit to shore up the old European social model against the ravages of the global free market. The tension was highlighted yesterday by Pierre Moscovici, the French Minister for Europe, who said that the summit would help Europe to resist Anglo-Saxon "liberalism" and help to create "a Europe of strong intervention for employment". He hoped, he said, that Britain could be prevailed upon to fall in with a common European tax level.

Most EU governments have been playing down the prospects of an EU-level remedy to a chronic unemployment rate at least double that of the United States, Japan and Britain. "It will be the start of a process, an evolution which will afterwards be impossible to stop," Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Preparing for the summit, the 15 governments have diluted an ambitious scheme, proposed by Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, to have the EU commit itself to creating 12 million jobs in five years. Instead they have focused on objectives for modernising the workforce through training and the redirection of welfare payments, and easing the burden on business.

Nato puts bill for expansion at $1.3bn

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

THE expansion of Nato with the inclusion of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999 will cost only $1.3 billion (£860 million) over ten years, the top alliance commanders have estimated after a long investigation.

This figure, which dramatically contradicts the Pentagon's estimate of $27 billion to $35 billion over 13 years, has been produced by General Wesley Clark, the American Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Admiral Harold Gehman, the American Atlantic commander. Their findings were approved by Nato's Military Committee on Monday.

The costs will be met by the present 16 Nato members and the three new ones. The new members will also be expected to spend up to $3.5 billion of their own funds over the first two years after accession to upgrade their armed forces and equipment to Nato standards, sources said.

The Pentagon had originally included in its costings the need for all existing European members of the alliance to improve their rapid-deployment capabilities. However, the two Nato commanders concluded that the existing European alliance members had sufficient capabilities to help Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic in the event of an Article 5 emergency, and that the new member states had adequate airfields and ports to cope with reinforcing Nato troops.

Chubais: remains First Deputy Prime Minister

Book costs Chubais finance role

From Robin Lodge
in Moscow

ANATOLI CHUBAIS, the Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, will give up his post as Finance Minister in an attempt to appease opposition politicians demanding his dismissal in the wake of a scandal over a $90,000 (£53,000) book advance, officials said yesterday.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential press secretary, said that Mr Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, had agreed that the posts of First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister should no longer be held by the same person. The two men are due to meet today, after which a formal announcement is expected.

Opposition deputies in the State Duma had threatened to cancel a debate on next year's budget unless Mr Chubais was sacked. They agreed finally not to link the budget with personnel issues and the budget debate is now scheduled for Friday.

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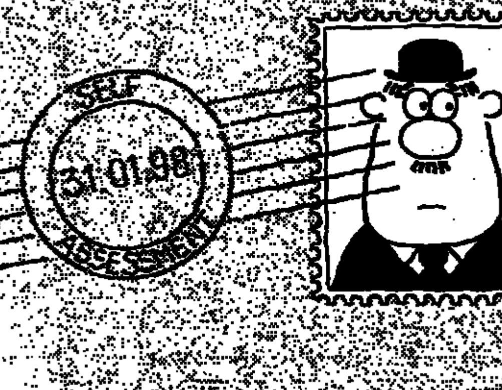

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Dr. Alan Knight
Environmental Policy Controller

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We both recognised that a *simple boycott of* tropical timber was *not the answer* since it was *unfair on* the tropical producers and would *not* address the issue of poor forestry in non-tropical countries.

In September 1991 B&Q set the following targets - by the end of 1993 to only buy timber from suppliers who could identify the source forest region and by the end of 1995 *to only buy timber* which was, according *to our own judgement*, from *well-managed* forests. At the time our stance was *controversial*, attracting criticism from both the environmental movement (who still believed we should boycott tropical timber) and industry.

Recognising that our own judgement would not be sufficient in the long term, we had earlier joined a group called the Forest Stewardship Council which was already *discussing* the concept of independent *certification* of forests and timber *products*. Before long we became active players to help it become established, with our environmental specialist, *Alan Knight, serving on the interim board* between 1992 and 1994.

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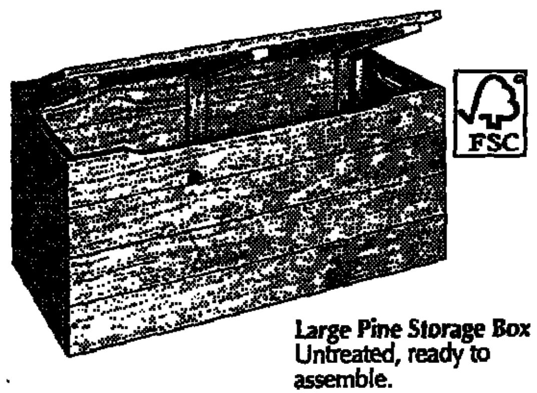

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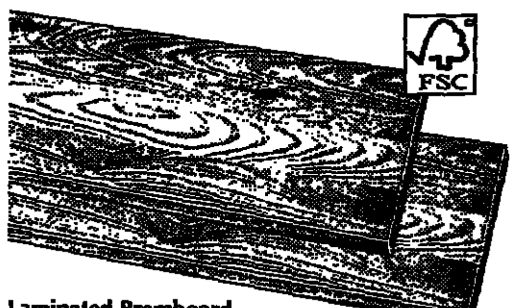

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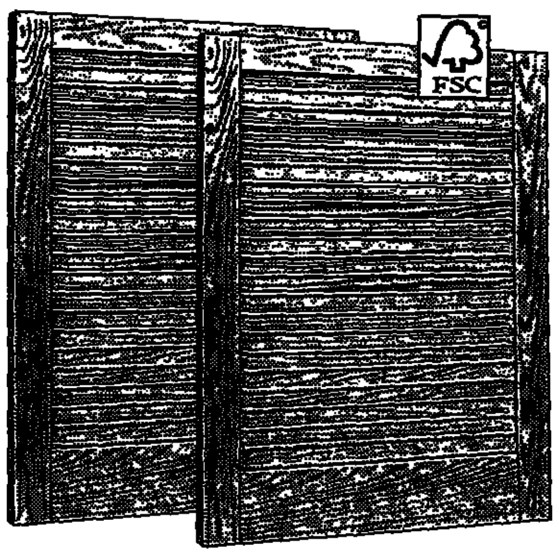

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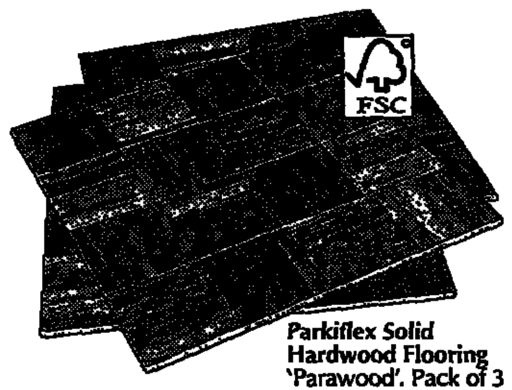

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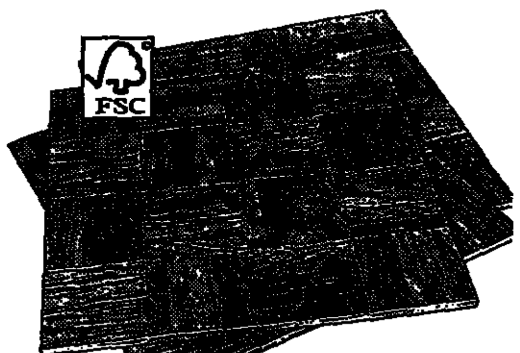

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Kaczynski told doctor: "You are the enemy"

Bomber suspect dismisses doctors

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE man on trial as the Unabomber has dismissed two psychiatrists who are seeking to show that he is mentally ill and therefore not responsible for bombings that could cost him his life.

In a pre-trial interview, Theodore Kaczynski, 55, "looked me in the face and said, 'You are the enemy'," Dr David Foster, a defence psychiatrist, wrote in an affidavit. He and another psychiatrist working for the defence were barred by Mr Kaczynski from seeing him again after trying to broach the subject of his mental symptoms.

Faced with what one expert has called "a defence attorney's nightmare", Mr Kaczynski's embattled legal team is staking everything on an "insanity defence" to save the suspected serial bomber from the death penalty. However, his refusal to talk to doctors could help him: a reluctance to think of oneself as ill is a classic symptom of the paranoid schizophrenia from which Dr Foster and others believe he suffers.

"They think something else caused their problems, like bad parenting or bad government or too many drugs — anything but being labelled crazy," Professor Ira Glick, of Stanford University, said.

In the meantime, jury selection in his Sacramento trial is in its second week and his lead lawyer is fighting the case in the press. "This is not a man who is feigning mental illness," Anthony Bisceglie said. "This is a sick man who is feigning mental health."

Car bomb at Indian film studio kills 23

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A CAR bomb killed at least 23 people in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad yesterday, the worst atrocity in years of violent rivalry between politicians' armed gangs. It demonstrated the depth of underworld involvement in the Telugu-language film industry, a huge money-spinner. As in Bollywood, the Bombay-based Hindi film industry, many movies in Telugu are financed by thugs.

The bomb's target was probably Paritala Ravi, a politician-cum-film producer who was emerging from celebrations inside a studio marking the start of a production. A six-man television film crew waiting in the street for the emerging stars all died. Many of the wounded lost limbs, and the death toll is certain to rise.

The explosion happened on a packed street by the D Rama Naidu studio, which had been besieged by people hoping to catch a glimpse of film personalities. Mr Ravi was injured, but not seriously. The bomb, packed into one of many cars parked near the studio, left wreckage over a wide area.

Mr Ravi is a former left-wing guerrilla with many political and business enemies. A number of regional politicians in India have small private armies to advance their commercial and political interests, as well as to eliminate rivals and protect themselves and key supporters.

Now an influential member of the Andhra Pradesh state legislature, Mr Ravi renounced guerrilla warfare a decade ago and was pardoned in return for his surrender. The Maoist People's War Group, to which he belonged, hates him. But the organisation, which is fighting for a separate communist state carved out of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, was probably not involved in the attack.

The blast, triggered by remote control, injured about 35 people, including Mohan Babu, a popular Telugu actor and member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament. His condition is not life-threatening.

Many southern Indian film stars have become influential politicians, building huge financial empires through almost unbridled power. Some, however, have had spectacular crashes. J. Jayalalitha, once the heartthrob of Tamil Nadu, is fighting to stay out of jail over allegations of massive corruption when she was the state's chief minister.

Yesterday seven policemen died in a landmine blast 140 miles north of the city, the fourth attack of its kind in the past two years by the People's War Group.

TAO-CHUAN YEH / AFP

Christine Alexander, 12, after being freed by a Taiwanese sought over the kidnap and murder of a television star's teenage daughter, and three other killings. The 24-hour Taipei siege began when Chen

Taiwan hostage family released

Chin-hsing took hostage Edward Alexander, a South African defence attaché, and his family. Chen released him and daughter Melanie, hurt in crossfire. Christine and a Taiwanese foster baby were freed next, then her mother, Anne, as Chen surrendered on winning an inquiry into the conviction of murder accomplices. (AP)

Laptop takeover to put Texas in class of its own

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

TEXAS is on the verge of adopting a plan for schools that would replace textbooks with laptop computers.

With the administration facing a bill of $1.8 billion (£1.1 billion) over the next six years for books, the head of the Texas Board of Education says it would be cheaper and more efficient to equip the state's 3.7 million students with laptop computers and CD-Roms.

Jack Christie, the board's chairman, said computer companies would "almost certainly" be willing to give Texas "a volume discount for four million computers". Once the investment was made, the computer software that carried the curriculum could be updated cheaply and frequently. "Why wait for six, seven, eight years to update history textbooks? The students need them today," he said. "A year ago, we replaced social studies books that still had Ronald Reagan as President, the Berlin Wall standing and the Soviet Union as one country. With laptops you can upgrade that for $1.25 ... besides, children would have access to more current information in a means that is so much more interesting and attention-getting than the traditional textbook." A Bill to introduce the change by 2000 will be presented in January. Mr Christie has powerful support. Teel Bivins, a Republican senator for a west Texas district, claimed to speak for many when he said: "The days of textbooks and teachers standing at the front of the class are rapidly changing." Predictably, however, publishers of textbooks oppose the "laptop takeover".

WORLD IN BRIEF

Slander trial for Pakistan leader

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court has indicted Nawaz Sharif, the country's Prime Minister, for contempt of court (Zahid Hussain writes). Mr Sharif, the first prime minister to face the court, will be tried on a charge of making slanderous remarks at a press conference last month against Sajjad Ali Shah, the chief justice. He is alleged to have publicly criticised a ruling by Justice Shah, a criminal act in Pakistan.

Mr Sharif denies contempt, but if found guilty could be disqualified from office. The issue has provoked a constitutional crisis in Pakistan and there is speculation that Mr Sharif will step down.

Refugees flee stricken ship

Rome: Nearly 400 would-be immigrants swam to safety after their Turkish boat ran aground off southern Italy (Richard Owen writes). The incident, two weeks after 1,000 Kurds arrived by boat near Lecce, revived fears that a wave of illegal immigrants is undermining the credibility of Italy's commitment to the Schengen agreement on a border-free Europe. The latest refugees were mainly Kurds, but included Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans.

Albania envoys fail to defect

London: Pavli Qesku, the Albanian Ambassador in London, and the mission's counsellor tried to defect two months ago after the electoral defeat of Sali Berisha, the former President, it was revealed last night (Michael Binyon writes). Britain refused their applications for asylum, saying that their lives would not be in danger if they went home. A third official ran off with the Embassy's bank account. Mr Qesku was recalled and a replacement is expected next month.

300 Russian army suicides

Moscow: More than 300 Russian servicemen committed suicide in the first nine months of this year, amid bullying of recruits and abysmal living conditions, a human rights activist said. Nikita Chernov, chairman of the Army and Society Association, also said that 1,037 servicemen were killed and 2,106 injured in the first three quarters of 1997 — even though Russia's war in Chechnya ended last year. The 314 suicides included a growing number of officers. (AP)

Pledge on Balkan leaders

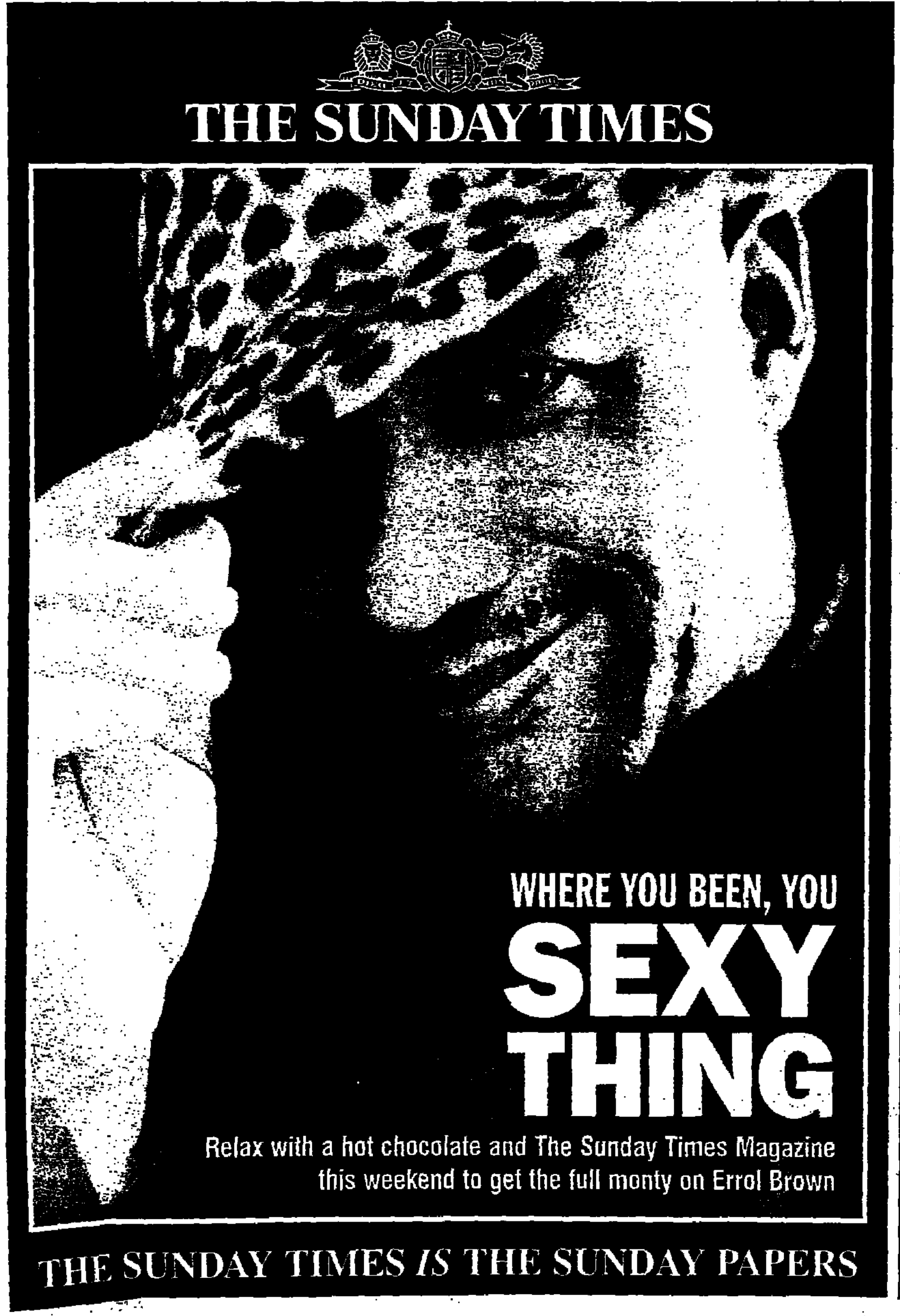
The Hague: A former US civil rights lawyer who is to head the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has promised to build new ties with the Balkan leaders who hinder the United Nations court more often than they help it. Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, 55, a former law professor and federal judge in Texas, was elected president of the court set up to bring to justice those who committed war atrocities. (AP)

Fire smog clears from Asia

Singapore: The haze that has choked South-East Asia since August has virtually disappeared with the onset of the monsoon season and a reduction in forest fires in Indonesia, regional experts said. Satellite pictures show few hot spots and the Meteorological Service Department in Singapore does not expect the smog to return this year. (AFP)

Mayor seeks city's rebirth

Rio de Janeiro: Elcio Berti, Mayor of Bocaiúva do Sul in southern Brazil, has banned sales of condoms and birth control pills in the hope that the resulting population rise will boost the town's tax revenues. He said that over the past 20 years the population had dropped from 22,000 to 8,500, reducing revenues by about two fifths. (AP)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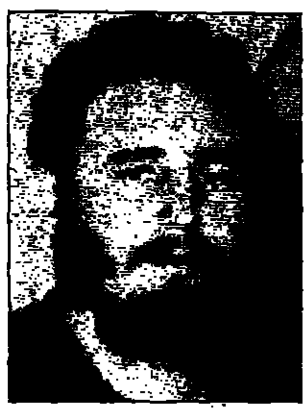
US planned fake photographs of Castro debauch

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMONG the extraordinary dirty tricks offered to President Kennedy as ways of sabotaging President Castro of Cuba were the faking of photographs of an apparently debauched Señor Castro and murderous plots such as the sinking of a boatload of Cuban refugees as a pretext for invasion.

The plans were included in classified documents released by the Pentagon. Dreamt up in tandem with Operation Mongoose, Robert Kennedy's concerted effort to dispose of Señor Castro by any means possible, another proposal, Operation Dirty Trick, included plans to blame Havana for blowing up a US warship in Guantánamo Bay and even to accuse the Cubans of sabotage if John Glenn had failed to return from his first orbit of Earth in 1962.



Castro: was target for Pentagon dirty tricks

The astronaut, now a retiring senator, did get back, but the Pentagon memorandum suggested that if he had not, then "various pieces of evidence could be manufactured which would prove electronic interference [by] the Cubans".

Other schemes hatched by defence chiefs included Operation Good Time, which would have fabricated photographs of an obese Señor Castro clinging to two beauties in front of a table brimming with delicacies and accompanied by a caption "My ration is different".

The proposals, released by the Assassination Records Review Board, an agency overseeing the declassification of documents related to the death of President Kennedy in 1963, were published only weeks after the publication of a book detailing Robert Kennedy's wish to use mobsters in plots against Señor Castro.

Written by Seymour Hersh, a Pulitzer-prizewinning investigative reporter, *The Dark Side of Camelot* can be lent only greater credibility by the latest notes, reflecting the Kennedys' intense desire to rid themselves of the Cuban President. While the CIA, as part of Operation Mongoose, used covert tactics as diverse as hiring Mafia hitmen and devising a poisoned diving suit as a gift for the Cuban leader, the Pentagon invented equally bizarre schemes after the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.

Military chiefs recommended to the Defence Secretary that America should overthrow Castro. "In view of the increasing military and subversive threat to the United States and the nations of the western hemisphere posed by the Communist regime in Cuba, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that a national policy of early military intervention in Cuba be adopted by the United States," a memorandum from General Lyman Lemnitzer said.

The previous month, the Cuba Project initiated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested sinking a US warship in Guantánamo Bay or staging the disappearance of a USAF plane with the sole purpose of blaming Cuba.

MIKE STEPHENS / REUTERS

Aileen Getty with her friend Diana, Princess of Wales, at a London clinic last year

Getty heiress to pose naked at HIV art show

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD'S grandest exhibition space will play host to an extraordinary spectacle tomorrow night when one of four heirs to the vast Getty oil fortune will take off her clothes and pose naked in the Pacific Design Centre as a living art exhibit.

Aileen Getty, 37, who has had the Aids virus since 1984, will be joined by three other naked HIV-positive models and a sign saying "Please touch". Each will also have a phial of his or her own blood.

Ms Getty's decision to take part in the exhibition could not come at a more opportune time for its British designer, Tony Kaye, nor at a more awkward one for the Getty family, as the foundation that bears its name prepares to open a new multibillion-dollar arts centre in the mountains above Los Angeles.

The heiress's struggle with Aids has shone an unwelcome spotlight on a family as dysfunctional as it is rich. "I was pretty much abandoned by the people close to me," she said in a rare personal interview in 1992. She told her sister, Ariadne, and two brothers, Jean Paul III and Mark, but "no one wanted to hear about the Aids".

Tomorrow's piece of naked protest art is a repeat of similar exhibitions by Mr Kaye in London and New York, but it will have a particularly pointed meaning in Los Angeles, where the Getty Foundation has been variously accused of inflating world art prices and fostering an elitist approach to art appreciation with a vast new arts complex that towers over the city.

The second grand-daughter of the oil tycoon, J. Paul Getty, she believes she was infected with HIV during an operation to remove ovarian cysts in 1984.

She has denied ever using needles to take drugs, but has admitted frequently using marijuana and cocaine, and entering costly clinics to be weaned off them.

Ms Getty has become a prominent advocate for Aids research and treatment.

Zimbabwe MP asks Queen to apologise

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A ZIMBABWEAN MP has demanded that the Queen should tour the country's rural areas to say sorry for British administrations that seized land. She also seeks an apology over governments for which Britain was not responsible.

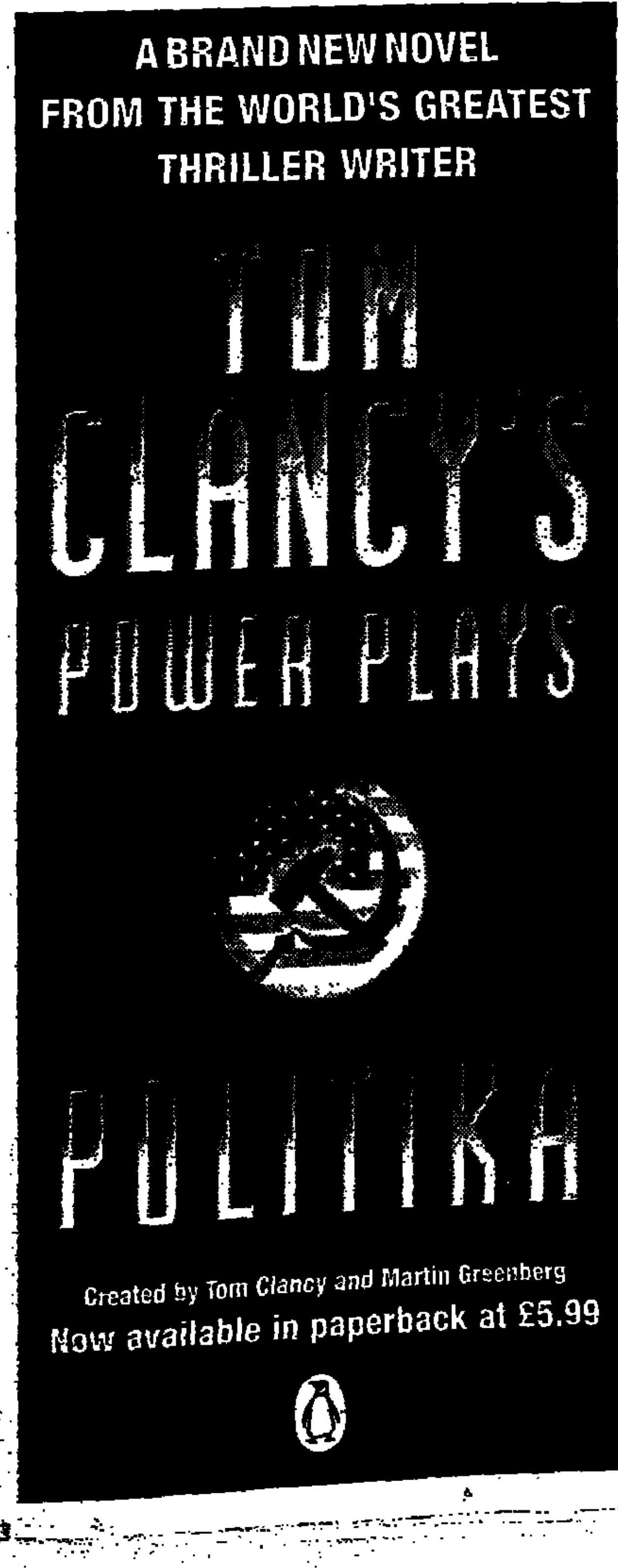
Irene Zindi told Parliament: "The Queen of England... should make a public apology to the Zimbabwean people on British television for the whole world to note.

"Then she should come to Zimbabwe to publicly apologise to the Zimbabweans in rural areas, through rallies held at growth points, with a clear denunciation of the misdeeds of Cecil John Rhodes, Godfrey Huggins [a former Rhodesian Prime Minister] and Ian Douglas Smith, who rejected British authority with his illegal declaration of independence in 1966."

Western diplomats point out that the Labour Government has firmly dissociated itself from any responsibility for the actions of Mr Rhodes, whose British South Africa Company occupied the country in 1890, or any his successors.

Shortly before President Mugabe's first meeting in Edinburgh last month with Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, he demanded that Britain should "pay for its children" — white Zimbabwean farmers — from whom the government intended to seize nearly 1,800 farms to resettle black farmers.

Britain said it would be "impossible" to support the Zimbabwean plan.



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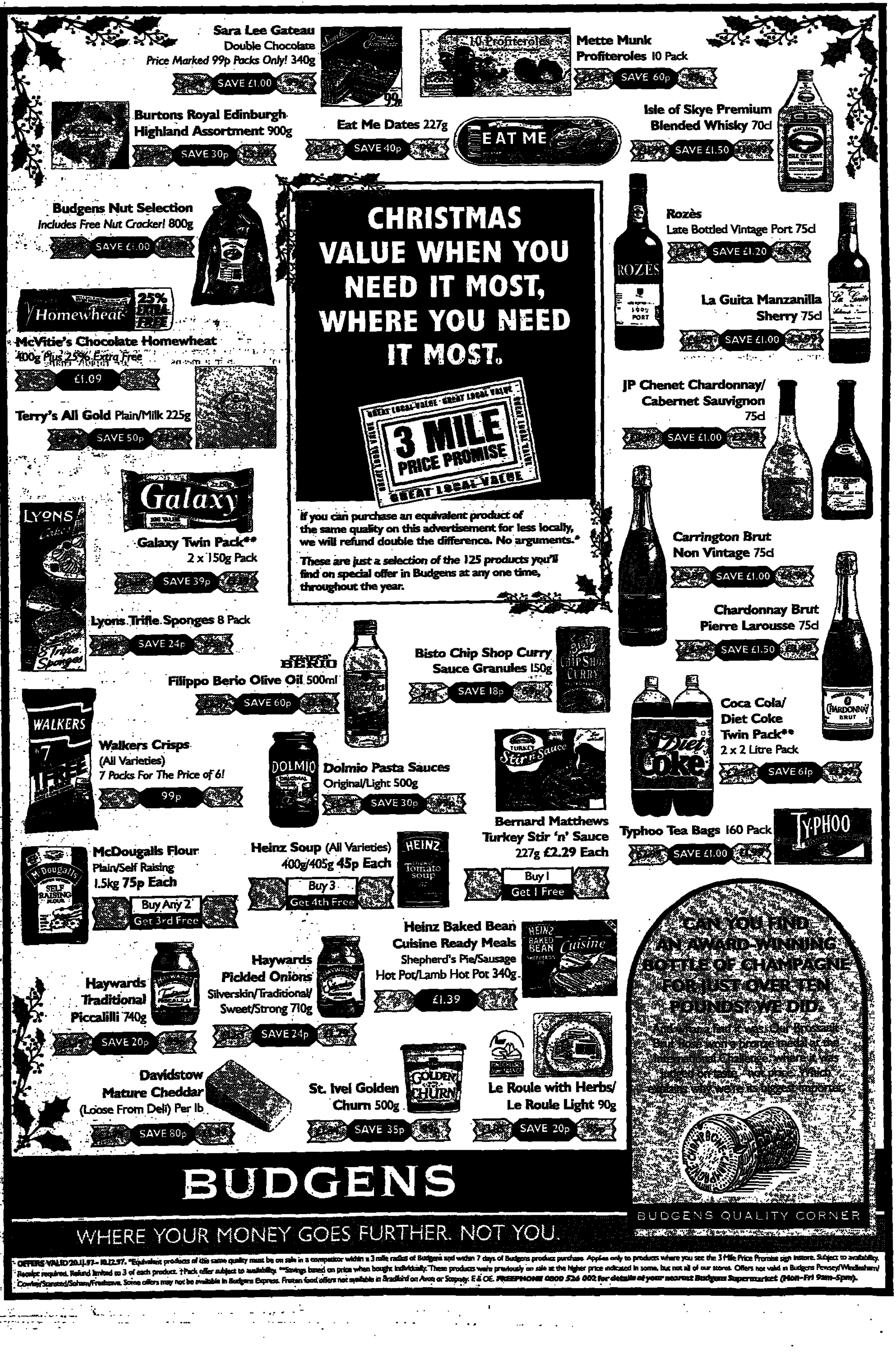

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RAYMOND RUTTING / EPA

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, on an official visit, at the Sphinx in Giza yesterday as Prince Claus, her husband, takes photographs

Luxor bullets ricochet

The flight of tourists after the massacre signals grim times ahead for Egypt, **Christopher Walker** writes

THE damage that Monday's slaughter of 58 tourists will *inflict on Egypt was signalled* yesterday when Japan's top travel agency said it was cancelling trips to the country until at least the new year.

Similar reactions are expected elsewhere, posing the most serious threat yet to President *Mubarak since he came to* power, also as a result of Islamic violence, when President Sadat was murdered, on October 14, 1981.

The £2 billion-a-year Egyptian tourist trade is the main currency earner after remit*tances from expatriates, and* as such is a major prop for the regime, which is also heavily *dependent on aid from the* United States.

Johannes Zurneiden, director of the Phoenix travel agency in Bonn, said: "People want to go on holiday and not into a war zone." Analysts predicted yesterday that the Egyptian economy, and particularly the stock market, were likely to falter badly.

"*Mubarak's first reaction* [after Monday's attack] — to appoint a new Interior Minister and to merge the Tourist and Antiquities Police — was the equivalent of moving chairs on the deck of the *Titanic*," one senior Cairo-*based diplomat said.* "What is needed is a much more fundamental shake-up in the way *that Egypt is governed.*"

Raafat Muhammad, a Luxor shopkeeper, was equally cynical. "Didn't anyone know security was loose before?" he asked. "The idea of security up until now has been to set up a few guardposts on the west *bank [of the Nile]* and put two tired policemen by the site."

Expatriates describe the *Egyptian attitude with* which Mr Mubarak will have to come to terms as the "Cairo IBM", a phrase that is derived from the three Arabic words most often heard in the capital — "*Inshallah*" (God willing), "*Bukra*" (tomorrow) and "*Maalesh*" (it doesn't matter anyway).

Although Mr Mubarak was *greeted with deferential cries* of "God save you, our President," when he drove his own car through the streets of Luxor in a morale-boosting visit after the massacre, discontent with his pharaonic-style of government runs deep. *Western* governments, which regard him as a linchpin of the present relative stability in the *Middle East, have been dis*turbed by his increasing reluctance to brook domestic criticism and his refusal to react positively to peace offers from one wing of the Islamic extremists.

"You have to be firm with *people like this. There is no* point in dialogue with these people," the former air force *commander said in dismiss*ing the notion that some form of contact with the radicals *may* lead to a solution.

President Mubarak's willingness to tolerate a relatively free opposition press as a way for critics to let off steam has also eroded, helping to stoke internal tensions. Most observers agree that the main cloud over his regime is corruption. To prevent mounting debate over the claims, Mr Mubarak has introduced draconian press restrictions *which have been used to* suppress the torrent of allegations, including those against his family.

Widespread public resentment had been countered by recent improvements in Egypt's economic standing.

"The point had just been reached when some of the benefits of privatisation were *due to be distributed in the* form of an improved welfare system," an Arab diplomat said. "That is why Monday's attack and its death knell for tourism is so damaging."

Woman shot dead as she ran for cover

BY ADAM FRESCO AND PAUL WILKINSON

SYLVIA WILDER, one of the women killed in the Luxor massacre, moved to live in *London four years ago with* her husband, although they separated a few months before she went on holiday.

The airline stewardess, who has dual British and Bulgarian nationality, was born in Plovtev, Bulgaria, in 1970. She *will be taken back to her home* country to be buried, probably in Sofia, the home of her mother, in the *next* couple of days. It is thought her husband has *told* officials he does not want to receive the body.

Her sister, Diana, who also *lives in London, is on holiday* in South Africa but has been contacted by the Foreign Office. She was travelling back to Europe yesterday.

Ms Wilder, who worked for Monarch Airlines, is believed to have gone on holiday with a friend who survived the attack. *He has said that* they tried to run for cover in some caves, but she was shot as she *ran in front of him.*

In Ripponden, West Yorkshire, Richard Whitton, the father of five-year-old Shaunnah Turner, who died in Luxor with her mother Karina and grandmother Joan, said his daughter was "a beautiful-looking, very intelligent young lady, who had the whole world at her feet".

Mr Whitton, 28, who was separated from Karina *Turner, said:* "*The evil* bastards who took Shaunnah should be here to see my grief ... they would realise that they could never justify this murder."

Britons sorry to go home as operators cut holidays short

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN LUXOR

BRITISH tourists were evacuated from Egypt by holiday operators yesterday, many *protesting their readiness* to stay in the aftermath of the Luxor massacre.

Thomson, the travel *company*, cut short all package tours in the country, flew holidaymakers to Luxor and then back to Britain on specially-chartered Boeing 757s. Tour groups were informed they had no choice but to *leave, though many wanted to* continue Nile cruises and trips to pharaonic temples, insisting there was no need to panic.

The first to leave were those *already* in Luxor, taken out on Tuesday on three Britannia jets. Other holidaymakers *were yesterday flown* to Luxor from Cairo, Aswan and Quseir, and bussed to the Winter Palace Hotel where they were advised to stay for their own safety.

They were then put on coaches, taken to Luxor airport and sent on flights *to Birmingham, Manchester* and Gatwick, each with a nurse on board.

Kuoni, another tour operator, posted notices in luxury hotels on the banks of the Nile in Luxor saying: "As a safety precaution, we are advising *everyone to stay near to their* hotel and not to undertake any independent sightseeing until further notice."

Mervyn Pierce, 66, a retired company director, and his wife Joy, 63, from Marshfield, near Bath, had their £1,800 two-week *tour cut short* by four days. They had seen the Valley of the Queens on Saturday and were in Cairo when the terrorists struck.

"We were happy to stay. We had done all our sightseeing and the last four days were for resting at Luxor. It has been *taken out of our hands* but we accept the decision," Mr Pierce said. "We continued our sightseeing. *Twenty-eight of us on* the trip still went on a trip to the Pyramids at Giza after the shootings, and only four didn't go."

Peter Heath, a company director from Swansea, who visited Egypt two years ago, *said: "It's a shame* we have to leave. We feel safe in the country. Egypt is nice, the people are very friendly and they have all been very apologetic. We would definitely come back, but maybe not for a year or two."

Israel rift 'healed' by meeting at Ascot

Jerusalem: An unexpected *private* meeting in Ascot between Binyamin Netanyahu, *the Israeli Prime Minis*ter, and King Hussein of Jordan has resolved the crisis caused by Israel's *bungled* attempt to murder a Hamas official in Amman, according to an Israeli spokesman.

The two-hour conversation *at the King's private residence* in Berkshire was the first meeting between the two since Mossad agents using forged Canadian passports tried to poison Khaled Meshaal, the Hamas political chief.

"The goal of the meeting in part *was to achieve* conciliation after the memorable affair in Jordan which shook rel*ations between the countries,*" said Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak. "The way it *appeared at the end of the* meeting, the relations between the Prime Minister and King Hussein *certainly looked* good."

The Israeli media said the meeting was initiated by the King to restore personal relations and to discuss the Iraq crisis. Israeli officials said the King wanted assurances that Israel *would not* violate Jordan's sovereignty if hostilities broke out with Iraq.

Napoleon was tu informal

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

NAPOLEON and *Josephine* may have been among the most famous lovers in French history, but an odd hiccup arose early in their marriage *over the enduringly tricky* question of whether to address each other formally, as *vous*, or more intimately, using *tu*.

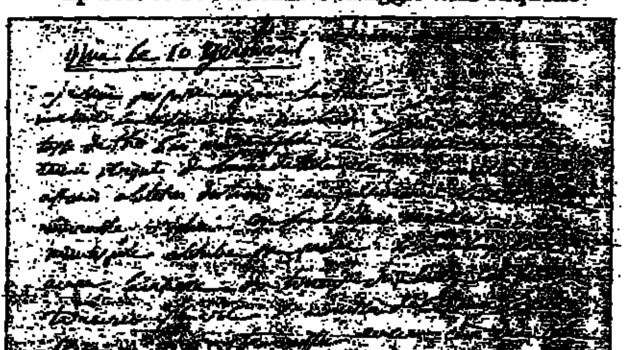
A *passionate* love letter, written by Napoleon to Josephine in 1796 and *sold* at auction in Paris yesterday for Fr650,000 (£65,000), reveals *that the* future emperor and his wife fell out over which form of address they should use, a problem for French-speakers through the ages.

Replying to a letter sent by Josephine just a few weeks after their marriage, Napoleon admonished *his bride* for using the more respectful but distant style of speech.

"*You call me vous,*" he complained. "Ah! But this is dreadful, how could you have written a letter like that? *It is* so cold."

The letter was sent from Nice *on March 30* as Napoleon, then a 27-year-old general, was on his way to join the French Army in Italy. He had left Paris just two days after their wedding on *March 9*, and the letter (his fifth since leaving home) reflects the anxieties of a young husband, separated from his new wife and distinctly jumpy that she

Napoleon's love letter to Josephine shows that even emperors-to-be sometimes struggle with etiquette



should still be using the formal form of address.

Josephine de Beauharnais was a worldly 33-year-old widow (her first husband was guillotined) when Napoleon married her, and the letter, purchased yesterday by an American collector for three times the estimated price, is a touching testament to his adoration as well as his doubts. "Not a night has passed without my imagining you in my arms ... in the midst of business, leading the troops, marching through the camps, my lovely Josephine is alone in my heart, occupying my spirit, absorbing my thoughts," he wrote.

The question of whether and when to use the singular *tu* or the respectful *second*-person plural *vous* remains the biggest social minefield in the French language, dependent on such factors as class, occupation and age, *and is the* cause of endless misunder*standings* and slights.

Married couples would normally be expected to use the *tu* form, *but not* always. Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir called each other *vous*; Colette addressed her husband as *tu* and he replied *pompously in the vous* form.

Jacques Chirac and his wife Bernadette address each other as *vous*, as do many *haut bourgeois* couples, but the *President* addresses the likes of Tony Blair as *tu*. François Mitterrand, the late President, only used *tu* when speaking to his closest friends or insulting his bitterest enemies.

Napoleon's 1796 letter, sold by the Drouot auction house, was part of a private collection of Napoleonic artefacts.

Napoleon's anxieties were only too well-founded, given Josephine's notorious infidelities and wide-ranging sexual appetites. While the letter leaves no doubt of the future emperor's *infatuation*, one is left with the sneaking suspicion that his wife purposely used the austere *vous* form, just to keep the young Napoleon's *amour* on the boil.

Books, page 40

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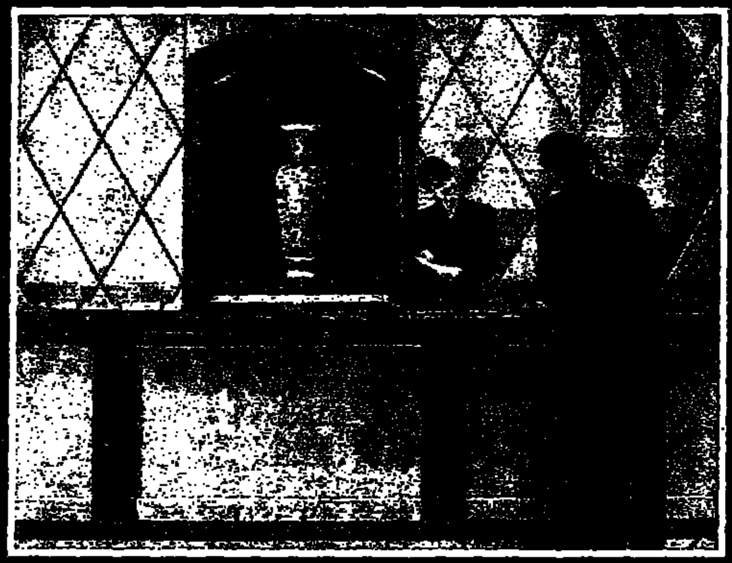

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Saddam's germ war experts had British training

By Ian Brodie in Washington, James Bone in New York and David Charter, Education Correspondent

ALL the key players in Iraq's biological weapons effort were educated in Britain. Indeed, as one United Nations expert said: "It's pretty hard to find one who didn't study there."

The mastermind behind President Saddam Hussein's biological weapons programme is Dr Rihab Taha, nicknamed "Dr Germ" by UN weapons inspectors before their departure from Iraq. As the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, Russia and the United States met early today to try to untangle the crisis, Dr Taha was described on American television as the world's most dangerous woman, willing to violate any international norms or scientific ethics.

Dr Taha, 42, studied for her PhD between 1979 and 1984 at the Norwich-based University of East Anglia. The mother of an infant daughter, she is married to General Amer Rashid, the Iraqi official who oversees all Saddam's weapons programmes. *NBC News* said that Dr Taha had created a programme that produced 10 billion doses of germs and toxins, some loaded on to missiles during the Gulf War.

UN inspectors also suspect an Iraqi scientist named Hazim Ali, a graduate of Newcastle University, of an important role in the covert programme. Iraq has admitted that Mr Ali worked on biological weapons in 1990, but his involvement is thought to go beyond that. After the Gulf War he became head of the al-Ghazi research institute in Iraq, and now holds an academic post at Baghdad University.

General Rashid himself studied at London University and, according to one UN source, spent a year in the RAF. His work with the UN inspectors led to his meeting the woman he was to marry. General Amir al-Saadi, who was General Rashid's boss at the Military Industrialisation Corporation in the 1980s and now co-ordinates Iraq's relations with UN weapons inspectors, studied engineering at the University of London. Another important figure in the biological weapons programme, is Ahmed Mutada, now Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, who received a degree in process engineering from the University of Manchester.

Dr Taha arrived in Norwich on a post-graduate course paid for by the Iraqi ministry of higher education to study for a PhD on plant pathogens — diseases that attack crops such as wheat and tobacco. She worked in a small laboratory under the direction of Dr John Turner, head of the biology department. He said she was not a gifted student but hard-working. "She was well-liked in the department but not gregarious. Quite quiet and in the background." She spent time with his family, bringing back gifts from Iraq. He told reporters that she was the last person he would suspect of running a germ warfare programme. "It's like hearing a daughter has suddenly done something dreadful," he said.

Taha: experiments

> ❛ Rihab Taha was well-liked but not gregarious. Quite quiet and in the background ❜
>
> — Dr John Turner

She returned home in 1984 telling Dr Turner that she was going to lecture at the University of Baghdad. He wonders now if she was sent to the West to gain knowledge about biological weapons or whether her skills as a microbiologist fitted a later Iraqi plan.

NBC News found she did not go to the university, but was assigned to a chemical weapons programme. She wrote a paper on biological weapons, and was put in charge. In time, Dr Taha and her staff were testing anthrax and botulism germs on rats, mice, monkeys, beagles and eventually donkeys. Some inspectors suspect she was involved in trials on Iranian prisoners-of-war, but that was never proved.

She organised a germ-warfare factory at al-Hakam, 80 miles west of Baghdad, and oversaw other research centres. Her staff grew to hundreds and, according to inspectors, expanded its work into gas gangrene, ricin toxin, and viruses that cause acute conjunctivitis and camel pox.

After the Gulf War started, Saddam ordered her to embark on a crash programme for loading bombs and missile warheads with toxins and to fit aircraft for spraying anthrax.

The inspectors said that Dr Taha was a "consummate liar", bursting into tears and hysterically denying what they had found. David Huxsoll, a former American inspector, said she was at first quiet, unassuming and accommodating, but asked about secret weapons, she erupted with rage.

As the net closed, Dr Taha launched a public relations campaign to prevent the destruction of al-Hakam — but the pretence failed. It was blown up by inspectors over a year ago.

VICTOR CALZADA, EL PASO TIMES / AP

Crew members at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, preparing one of the six F117A Stealth bombers that are to join American forces in the Gulf. The jets, which can avoid radar, will stop overnight in Virginia and reach Kuwait today along with four refuelling planes

Harriers ready for Gibraltar

London: Ammunition and weapons for a squadron of RAF Harrier GR7s were flown to Gibraltar on Hercules transport planes yesterday in preparation for the arrival of six of the aircraft, which are to provide additional firepower for the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*, on standby for possible deployment to the Gulf (Michael Evans writes).

Last-minute preparations began at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire for the flight of the six Harriers, with one more as a spare, to the carrier.

There is still no decision about deploying the carrier, which arrived in Gibraltar yesterday with seven Royal Navy Sea Harriers already on board.

Ground crew for the RAF Harriers left for Gibraltar yesterday as the RAF began a series of 20 shuttle runs of Hercules aircraft.

Photograph, page 26

Crisis meeting as Primakov outlines Iraq peace proposals

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, outlined to the West early today a blueprint that he said he had agreed with the Iraqis for ending the confrontation with President Saddam Hussein.

At the emergency meeting in Geneva, the Russians were due to present the plan to Madeleine Albright, America's Secretary of State, Robin Cook and Hubert Védrine, the British and French Foreign Ministers. The diplomatic package would allow United Nations weapons inspectors to return to Iraq while accepting some of Saddam's main demands over the composition of the team and the lifting of UN sanctions.

No details were available, but Western diplomats believed the Russians were closely co-ordinating their negotiations with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council and that Mr Primakov was not trying to "go it alone" as he did in talks with Saddam before the Gulf War.

The meeting, after a further day of diplomatic activity yesterday, came as Western military preparations continued and British and American officials released details of the vast Iraqi arsenal of chemical and biological weapons that have already been destroyed.

Publicising the list, which includes more than 38,000 filled and empty chemical munitions as well as 690 tonnes of chemical weapons agents and more than 3,000 tonnes of precursor chemicals, is clearly intended to underline the urgency of continuing the UN inspections.

Ms Albright cut short her visit to India to arrive in Geneva after midnight to meet Mr Cook, M Védrine, and Mr Primakov, who stopped off en route to Latin America to brief his three Security Council partners on the peace plan he claimed to have agreed in Moscow with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

The meeting in the UN building underlined the determination of the four countries to present a united front to Saddam and convince him that sanctions would be eased once he allowed UN weapons inspectors to return and complete their work.

The three Western allies were eager to hear the details of Mr Primakov's proposals and ensure that Moscow was not trying to work out a settlement independently.

China, the fifth permanent Security Council member, was not represented, but British officials said Beijing had been kept abreast of the negotiations and was unlikely to veto any jointly agreed plan.

Mr Cook was due to arrive at about midnight after an afternoon meeting in London with King Hussein of Jordan.

Michael Kelly, page 22
Leading article, page 23

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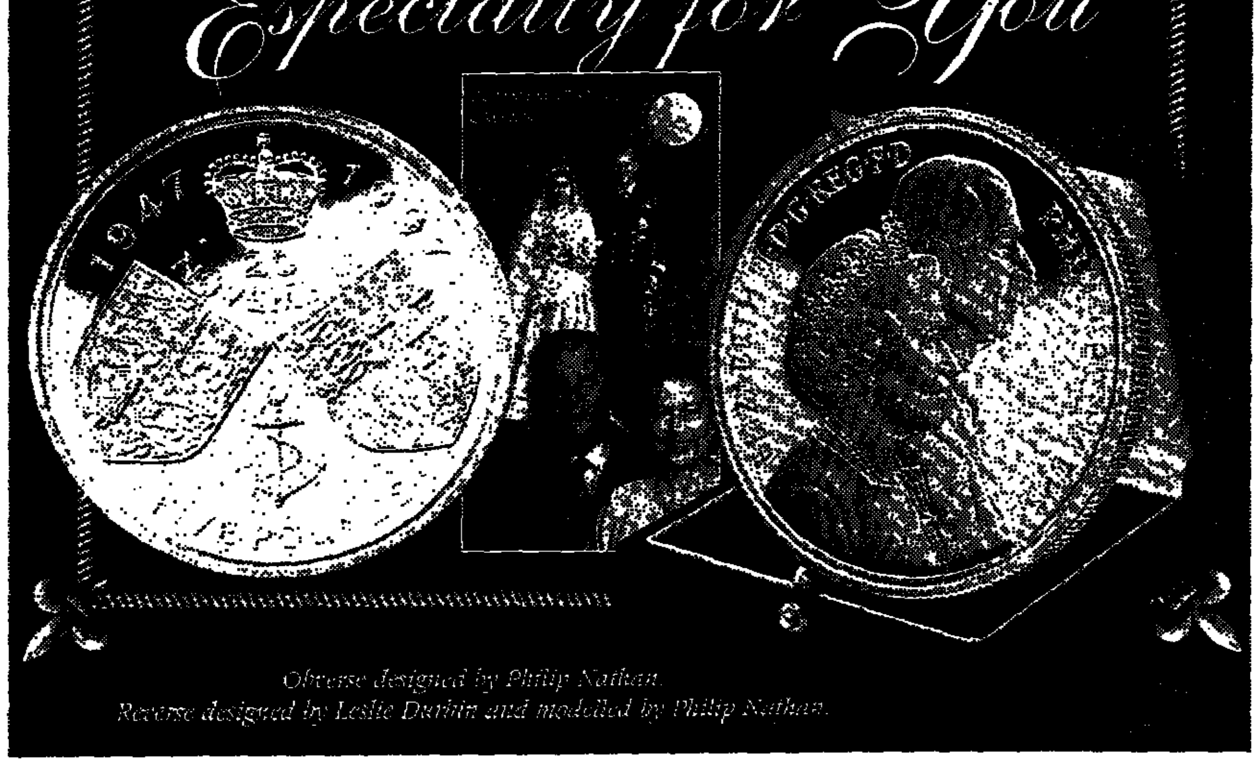

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on bedsores; irritable bowel syndrome; erotomania; amnesia and strokes and HRT

Hidden dangers of a static life

It is tragic that people like Lady Tryon should have battled against potentially crippling and lethal diseases, such as spina bifida and uterine cancer, only to fall victim to bedsores. The importance of treating pressure points — the parts of the body which bear the weight of a paralysed, semi-comatose or comatose patient — is easily forgotten.

Modern high-tech mattressing varies the way in which the weight of the patient is borne while bedridden and makes sores less likely, but bedsores still occur in those who are confined to wheelchairs.

Patients are usually first issued with a wheelchair while still in hospital or while attending a clinic. Unfortunately life in hospital wards and in an outpatient clinic is very different from that in someone's own house or place of work.

This difference can be of crucial, even lifesaving, importance. If the pressure points are not accurately plotted and the weight they have to bear is not measured, the necessary precautions to prevent pressure sores may not be taken.

Even sitting in one position for long periods may cause a bedsore. Another common hazard to the paralysed patient, often forgotten, is that which stems from asymmetrical sitting, such as happens when working. If, for instance, someone whose life is spent on the phone always answers it by leaning forward and to one side, this side of the body is exposed to much more pressure — and therefore the risk of a sore — than is the other side. In these cases the risk may be removed by finding a new place for the phone.

Research by Professor Ferguson Pell, at the orthopaedic hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex, which has been funded by the medical charity Remedi, is designed to measure the pressure exerted on different parts of the body while the patient is in a wheelchair.

A computer-mapping electronic system records the data on a device called a data logger, so that the memory of all the different movements which the sitter undertakes may be recorded. So great is the amount of information derived that the data logger needs to process some of the information even as it is being collected.

Recently the Stanmore team has been developing a data analysis system called neural networks, modelled on decision-making processes of the human brain. This will provide a way to analyse data and will unravel complex information collated from the study of a wheelchair sitter's movements whether he or she is at home or at work.

The team is about to work with a small group of volunteers so that the neural networks may be programmed to discover the pressure patterns in wheelchair users, whatever the cause.

After this, trials will be conducted in hospital surroundings where the team will be able to supervise the recording system at work with patients. Later research will carry out similar investigations in the patients' own houses and offices. It is hoped that this study will demonstrate the common cause of bedsores in wheelchair users who are living and working in the community.

The objective is that patients will be able to study their own pressure points by using the facilities developed at Stanmore, just in the same way as cardiac patients now borrow a 24-hour ECG machine to see the effect of home life on their coronary arteries. If Lady Tryon had known what activities caused her pressure sores, she might never have developed the blood poisoning nor needed the surgery to restore the skin.

GRAHAM COX / SWNS

Lady Tryon, the dress designer and society hostess, who fell victim to a side-effect of pressure sores

Stalkers with dangerous delusions

MURIEL TUCKER has made history by being the first woman to be prosecuted under the new harassment laws. She was a female stalker who plagued Terry Murphy, a taxi driver, with a multitude of letters and by her proximity; she moved so that she became his neighbour. Finally, Tucker broke into his house to greet him when he returned. She took with her two carving knives. Although Portsmouth Crown Court and the law treats Tucker as a criminal, doctors would probably see her as a patient suffering from erotomania.

Erotomania is the extreme jealousy aroused by the patient's conviction that a particular person is in love with them. They contact the object of their desire with letters, telephone calls and visits. If thwarted, they may pose a danger, either to that person or to anyone who may stand in their way.

Some years ago I used to see a patient who was convinced that the head of the Greek Orthodox Church loved her dearly. The fact that they had never met did little to dissuade her. These patients need treatment in the same way as anyone with any other delusional preoccupation may need therapy. They will sometimes respond to a combination of psychotherapy and neuroleptic drugs, but society and the endangered man or woman may seek more drastic and immediate treatment.

Unnecessary HRT anxiety

MOST doctors will be well aware of the anxiety that women who are taking HRT feel about the possible risk of having a stroke as a result of hormone therapy.

Doctors who have read *The Lancet* recently will be able to be even more reassuring than usual when they tell their patients that HRT taken by women aged between 45 and 65 has little influence on either the incidence of strokes caused by clots, which comprise 75 per cent of all strokes, or those that are the result of haemorrhage, when a blood vessel in the brain has burst.

One type of stroke seems, at first sight, to be more common in HRT takers: the transient ischaemic, in which stroke-type symptoms are caused by a clot, which rapidly passes on its way. The transient ischaemic leaves no appreciable residual damage and its prevention is encouraged by taking regular aspirin. The authors of *The Lancet's* report on HRT and strokes suggest that any increase in transient ischaemic attacks may be more apparent than real. It could be that patients who take HRT are the sort of women who would be more likely to report any symptoms of transient ischaemic to their doctor.

The causes of memory loss

WHEN DAVID attended a casualty department in Bristol, he had no idea who he was or where he had come from. Fortunately, his wife recognised the picture of her husband in the paper, and David and his family were reunited.

David's case is typical of a hysterical fugue, the most common form of psychogenic amnesia, when highly charged incidents are completely forgotten.

When the loss of memory has a physical cause, long-term memory is better preserved than that for recent events, and only rarely, if ever, do patients lose contact with their identity.

Other conditions which can be compared with hysterical fugues are systemised amnesia and transient global memory loss. In the first, the memory loss is for an isolated event: an horrific circumstance is forgotten, but the rest of the memory is intact. Criminals can display psychogenic amnesia.

Global transient amnesia is entirely physical. It is the result of a small clot which blocks part of the blood supply to a part of the brain and then moves on. Patients remember their earlier life, are well orientated but have no knowledge of recent circumstances, or even of the kindly folk, their family, now around them.

Relief for the stress of IBS

It is always flattering when a former patient rings for a consultation from some far-flung corner of the world.

This time it was Charlotte. She has been told she has irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) but, because other tests have been arranged urgently, she wonders whether her symptoms are really those of some malignant disease.

Charlotte should not worry: diarrhoea early in the morning followed by a reasonably well-behaved gut for the rest of the day are symptoms of a variant of IBS.

The doctor is only being careful in arranging other tests, for the symptoms of IBS can mimic those of many other conditions.

Dr David Silk, a consultant gastroenterologist at the Central Middlesex Hospital who has studied IBS, says one in four of the patients is found to have some other condition, despite the provisional diagnosis, when investigated at the hospital. Chief among these are microscopic colitis and coeliac disease (a sensitivity to gluten in wheat and most other cereals).

Other, less common, illnesses with similar symptoms include diverticular disease, chronic bowel infection, early ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Tumours of the gut, benign or malignant, may also be a possibility.

The days when IBS was thought to be a complaint of the large intestine have passed; upper intestinal disease, including gastric and duodenal ulcers, and gall bladder disease may also induce IBS-type symptoms. To complicate matters, the cause of the symptoms may lie away from the gut, and be associated with thyroid disease — either too much or too little thyroid, or abnormalities of the parathyroid glands.

Whatever the diagnosis that prompted the investigation, it has been found that 50 per cent of hospital gastroenterological admissions have IBS. Caring for IBS sufferers costs the NHS more than £500 million a year.

The symptoms of the condition are well known. These include abdominal pain, abdominal distension after eating, wind, constipation or diarrhoea. All of the symptoms are made worse by eating, particularly if there has been any tension, even pleasurable tension, while eating. Women are affected three times as often as men.

The interaction between the mind and the gut, together with the wide variety of the symptoms of IBS — and the part that stress, diet and alcohol play — makes the syndrome a fascinating study.

Most patients have noticed close links between the abdominal symptoms and stress. Unfortunately, the symptoms of IBS tend to increase emotional tensions — 95 per cent of sufferers say that they worry about it "constantly", while 50 per cent are so concerned that they are unhappy eating in a restaurant, 46 per cent worry about travelling, 40 per cent find that staying with friends is difficult, and a similar number feel resentful that they cannot enjoy alcohol as much as their contemporaries can.

Dr Silk says: "Research into IBS is forging ahead. Doctors now understand far better the mechanisms that cause bloating and discomfort, and the abnormal motility of the gut. Much of the problem is related to the supersensitivity of the intestinal tract."

Ulcers and gall bladder disease may also induce IBS-type symptoms

Associated with this increase in knowledge of the causes of IBS is the development of new drugs to treat it. At the moment the mainstays of treatment are Colpermin, a peppermint preparation; Immodium, which slows the gut; and Colofac, a muscle relaxant. All have proved useful to many patients.

Research now promises new drugs, not yet available but in the pipeline, which show every indication of being more efficient as muscle relaxants and in their ability to counteract other symptoms.

The research programme into IBS at the Central Middlesex Hospital is supported by charity and, like many medical charities, has recently felt the pinch. Dr Silk has written a readable and comprehensible book, *Understanding Your Irritable Bowel*, the profits from which will be devoted to the charity. The book aims to explain to people just what the symptoms of the various types of irritable bowel syndrome are, why they occur and how they can be treated. Although it is written for patients, doctors may well find that if they do not read it, their patients may know more about the condition than they do. My copy is on order.

● Understanding Your Irritable Bowel, *by Dr David Silk, is available for £11.99, including postage, from PO Box 18, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1TY. Cheque to be made payable to The IBS Appeal.*

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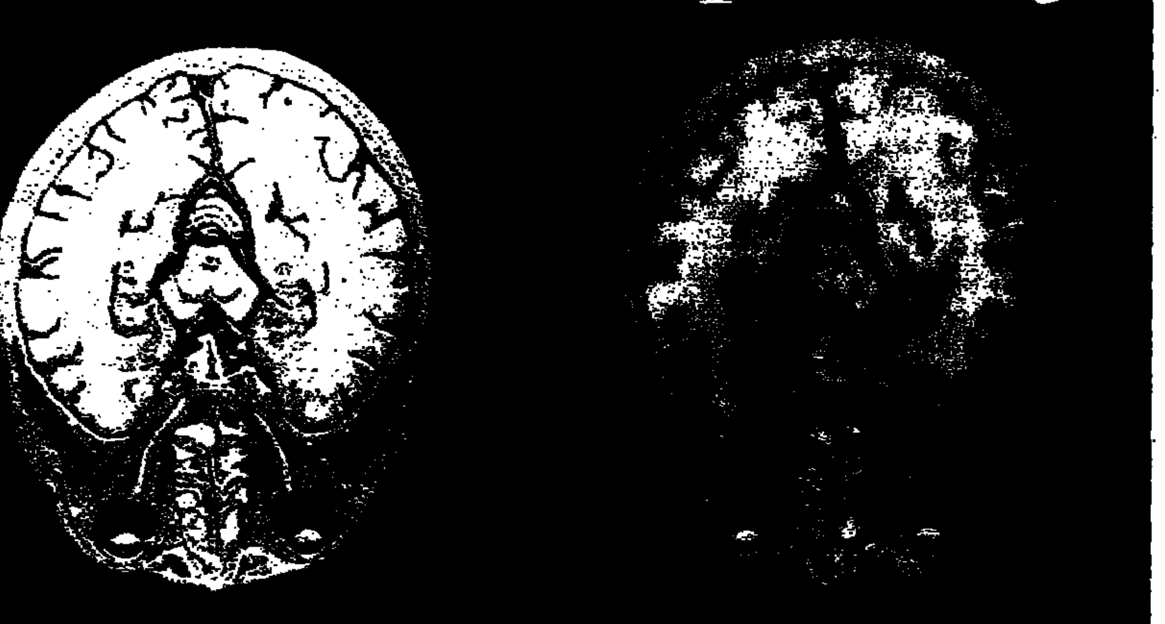

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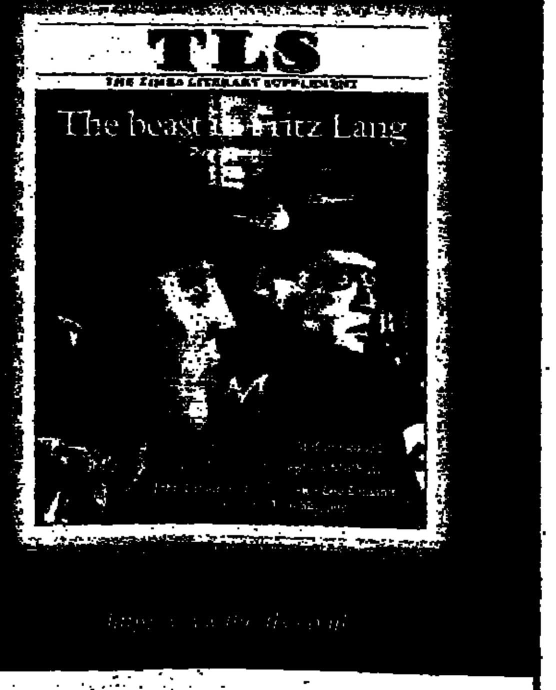

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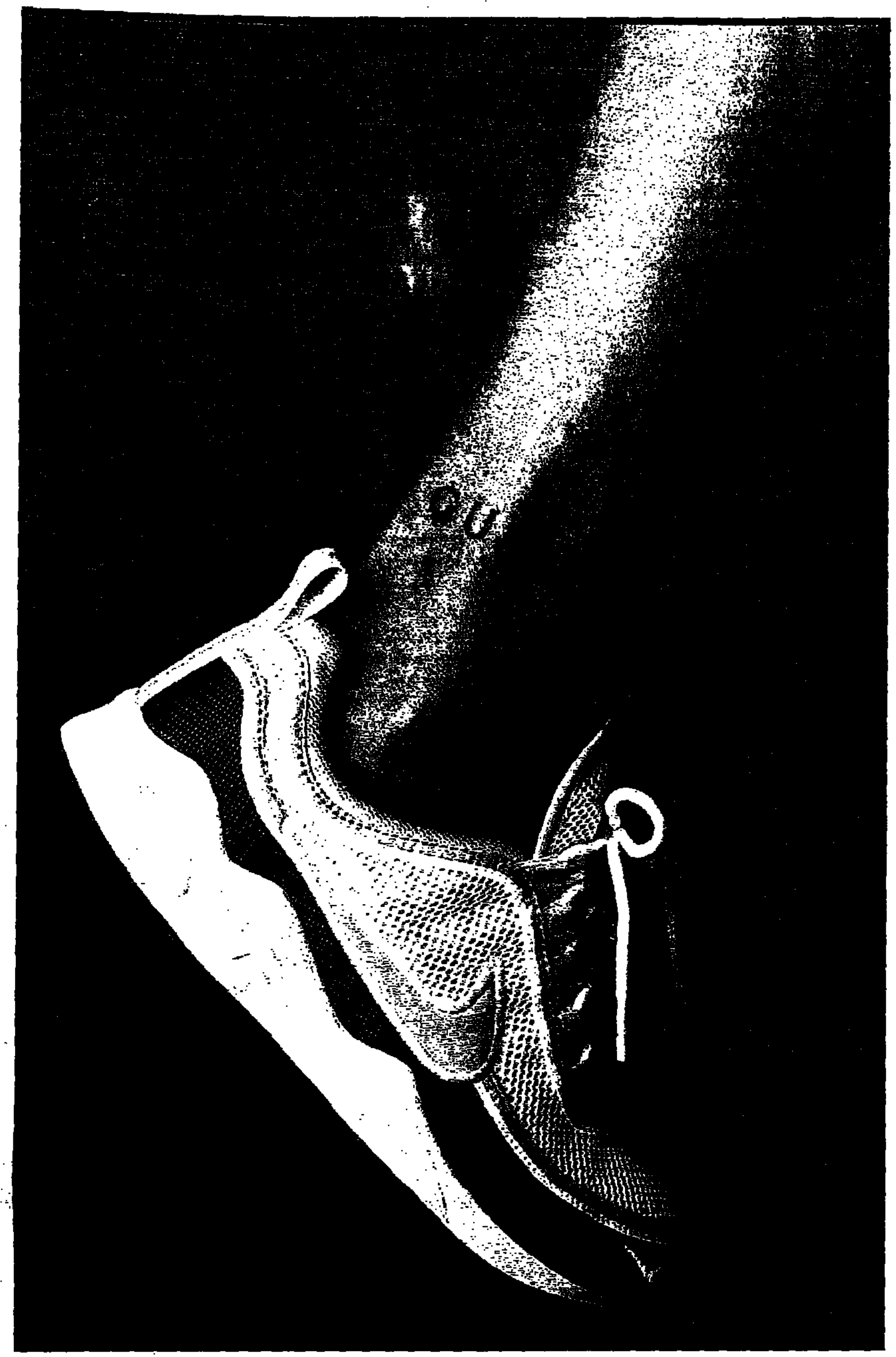
Branded for life

Having a designer logo tattooed on to one's ankle or wrist has become the ultimate in chic. **Grace Bradberry** reports


High-fashion labels were once discreetly sited. The new vogue for trademark tattoos means you can have a designer body

Picture the scene. Charlotte — Charlie to her friends — stands before the mirror in her Notting Hill flat, preparing for a big night out. She is in torment. No style magazine, ever, has sanctioned the wearing of a Gucci-logo belt with Nike trainers. What is she to do? Must she really choose between the two names that mean most to her in the world?

Fortunately, no. One afternoon of exquisite pain will ensure that she never again has to face this dilemma (though she may one day need laser surgery as a result).

An entire page of this month's issue of *The Face* is devoted to an image of a woman's leg bearing the Gucci logo just above the latest Nike trainer. In a trend that gives new meaning to the phrase "fashion victim", tattoo parlours are facing an increasing number of requests for corporate branding on their clients' flesh. "This winter's label-for-life ethos has nothing to do with footie bonding," writes Peter Lyle in the style bible, "and everything to do with conspicuous consumption, posh sex and the current couture class system."

Couture used to be a private language, summed up by Nancy Mitford in *Love in a Cold Climate*. Fanny, disappointed by the Schiaparelli jacket her mother has given her, says: "It seemed to me quite plain and uninteresting except for the label in its lining, and I longed to put this on the outside so that people would know where it came from." Then along comes Cedric, who spots it at a glance: "My dear, one can always tell."

"It used to be that the more you spent, the less visible the label was," says Mr Lyle. "But the new Gucci shoes have the Gs." The hierarchy of who owns what has reasserted itself with a vengeance in the late 1990s, and there are no longer any prizes for discretion, and few for discernment.

Still, having Gucci drilled on your ankle is a particularly reckless act. The history of this fashion house well illustrates how fickle fashion can be. One of the century's most chic luxury goods companies, it plunged into apparently terminal naffdom before enjoying a resurgence courtesy of Tom Ford in the 1990s. "We won't do logos," says Andy Dixon, one of London's best-known tattoo artists, who has a parlour called Skinflash in Kensington. "We won't do things that are going to be a fad and that people will live to regret. We certainly don't do pop groups — [clients would] feel like prats at 65."

Mr Dixon, who has been in business for 18 years and is, "self-taught, in Her Majesty's big house", likes to do artistic work. He also talks longingly of his old clientele. "There are no sailors and dodgy people any more," he says. "Instead we get Sloane Rangers who have come along to upset Mummy, and professional women in their mid-twenties."

Hence the feature in *Tatler* earlier this year, which recommended that the tattoos be tucked away on the heel of the foot, nape of the neck or inside of the wrist: "Like great perfumes applied well, tattoos shouldn't smack you in the face, but hint at something delicious." And what could be more delicious than a pricey designer name?

Models, of course, cannot show any brand allegiances. This has not stopped them from succumbing to the vogue for flesh decoration. Kate Moss has a noncommittal heart on the back of her hand, while Danielle Z has a star hidden away on the back of her head. The name Shangri-La circles Georgina Grenville's navel.

You might think the designers themselves would recoil. But they are as drawn to the art as the rest of the fashion pack. Both Jean Paul Gaultier and John Galliano have designed realistic body stockings covered in tattoos. Clements Ribeiro have produced tattooed tights, while British designer Fabio Piras sent models down the catwalk with barbed-wire markings across their mouths. And a few years ago daisy-chain designs around the ankles were the epitome of rock chic.

> 'We won't do things people will regret, such as pop groups'

Not any more, which is why anyone with ambitions to reinvent themselves will go for something less permanent. Urban Decay's home body paint kits have become popular. But there are still enough brave souls to give the tattoo artists a laugh. "We had a man who wanted a Rolex [watch] crown, with the word Rolex underneath it," says Kate Wilson, business manager of Into You, in Clerkenwell, North London. "We did it for him. We've also done the Fairy Liquid baby for someone. None of us can understand it at all."

Why tea should pack its bags

Tea's loss of favour among Britons is causing concern in Japan — but **Joe Joseph** isn't worried

You would be surprised at just who drinks tea. Take Dean Martin, for instance. Although he was famous for his supposed devotion to bourbon, Dean Martin was actually a deeply traditional man who, being a creature of habit, knew that come four o'clock in the afternoon, it was time for a different kind of drink. So he would switch to vodka for a couple of hours instead. But never tea.

That's because Dean Martin knew that tea is a wuss's drink, the sort of drink that — along with brollies and bowlers — has no place in Tony Blair's hip, new, exciting, "rebranded", Formula One-loving Britain. But apparently tea's loss of favour among Britons is now upsetting the Japanese, who feel that tea-drinking is one of the cornerstones of British life. They say that the decline in tea-drinking is causing England to lose its quintessential "Englishness".

Who does? Stand up Mr Toru Kuroiwa (actually he is standing). Mr Kuroiwa, who used to be the London bureau chief for the Japanese newspaper *Mainichi Shimbun*, has written a bestseller in Japan in which he pillories the British for losing their reserve and their taste for tea. Kuroiwa, whose *The English Way Of Life* is treated as an authoritative reference book, blames the decline in tea drinking for Britain's moral decline: "I was shocked when I got to this country and there was a strike on the London Underground: the workers said they wanted time for a tea break. I learnt that tea-drinking was one of the most important rituals of this country. It is good for you. It relaxes."

And now? Tea-time plays a smaller and smaller part in our lives as we become what Kuroiwa regards as a consumer-driven, less tolerant and less civil society — which is obviously a perfectly reasonable view, unless you happen to be one of those newly vulgarised Britons who think that Mr Kuroiwa should stop being such a clever Dick and mind his own business.

In his essay *A Nice Cup Of Tea*, George Orwell wrote that tea made you feel "wiser, braver and more optimistic". But actually it makes you feel even wiser, braver and more optimistic if you lace it with Glenlivet first. Tea by itself takes too long to kick in for most busy people. Remember the case of Major David Senior, the army officer who was in the dock this summer for fiddling the books on rations allowances? He had to drink a gallon of tea for 20 years before the caffeine build-up began affecting his judgment — a state of neural dislocation that most of us, with rather less time on our hands, aim to achieve after, say, a couple of bottles of *Côtes du Rhône*.

Tea has little place in a country that is again supposed to be the most swinging place on the planet, just as it was in the 1960s when Simon Dee was around. For example, did you notice how, when Donna Karan recently decided to expand her empire by lending her designer touch to things other than women's frocks, she chose to design her own coffee blend? Manhattan cafés now sell it at $1.30 a shot, served in small DKNY paper cups. Not so much a diffusion range as an infusion range.

Tea-drinking: so British

One can easily imagine that other designers will now branch out into own-label foodstuffs. But can you imagine any designer calling a press conference to inform the world that they have spent months mixing up a few Assams and orange pekoes and lapsang whatsits to produce personalised teabags?

Tea simply lacks sex appeal. Think of the *Gold Blend* ads. Is it likely that viewers would have become glued to television commercials showing sexual seduction conducted over cups of PG Tips? Not unless they were turned on by chimps.

When psychologists announced earlier this year that supermarket shoppers were sizing up potential partners by watching what they put in their trolleys, it was noticeable that tea was not cited as a turn-on. Dr David Lewis, the psychologist who carried out the research for the Somerfield supermarket chain, discovered that not only was it common for under-25s to visit supermarkets to pick up people, but that more than one in ten of these under-25s regularly used a form of "love-coding" in supermarkets to size up potential bedmates.

Of course, once everyone was wise to the game (soup, fish fingers and Brussels sprouts supposedly indicate that you are dull: tropical fruits say you are "exotic and passionate"; bananas tell other shoppers that "life is hectic but I love it"), shoppers began choosing particular "love-coded" items for their wire basket even if they would never normally eat them — the shopper's equivalent of disguising a molehill cleavage with a Wonderbra.

So what did these people choose? Tetley teabags? No. "Chocolate fudge cake was cited by a number of people as something they would put in their basket if they wanted to send out the message that they were game for a wild time," said Dr Lewis.

This is because, while many foodstuffs betray you terribly (fish paste surely means "I wear socks in bed"), tossing tea in your trolley just embarrasses you. Especially if you sink to instant tea granules. Instant tea granules broadcast to the world that "squandering time on foreplay is not my strong point."

You only have to look at all the references to tea in the English language to see how dispiriting its influence can be. By substituting something else for the word "tea" in each case, you can glimpse the possibilities of a cheerier, non-tea world beyond. Study these examples of tea-replacement:

Afternoon tea — afternoon siesta; tea breaks — tax breaks; making tea — making out; my cup of tea — my cup runneth over; tea lady — Isabelle Adjani; I have my own tea caddy — I have my own golf caddy; high tea — highball; teacake — tiara.

And people who defend tea-drinking on the ground that it is an age-old bond that links everyone from queen to commoner should remember: so is nose hair.

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ARTS

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Don't ever go back on Dearing

There is still time to rescue higher education, says **Magnus Linklater**

There was a simplicity *about Sir Ron Dearing's* report on higher education. Now, as the Government seeks to turn it into action, it is beginning to degenerate into confusion, with worrying signs of bureaucracy, discrimination and downright unfairness.

This week, for the first time, a member of the Dearing committee, *Sir Ron Garrick*, broke ranks to accuse the Government of abandoning a coherent formula *in favour of* proposals which will hit middle-income families in general, *and English students in* particular.

What seems to be happening *is the opposite of what* was intended: instead of students being inspired to seek out the *most suitable university* anywhere in the British Isles for their course, they may well be *encouraged to stay at home, or* even to abandon a university education. In this, of all vital areas, *old Labour ideas are* still obstinately guiding policy.

Most of the focus in England *has been on the Oxbridge* colleges, and their protests that the Government may *cease paying college fees*, using Dearing's recommendations as *an excuse for* opting out of an annual £17 million *subvention. This*, they say, will force them to charge students *directly*, and discourage the less well-off.

Last week I received a glossy brochure from my old Cambridge college *urging support* in fighting the plans. My immediate thought was that if *they could afford the brochure* they were probably well-placed to make up the shortfall *in fees. But I accept that some* less well-off colleges, such as Pembroke and Fitzwilliam, *will be seriously hit. Other* universities which have historically been paid a special college fee, *such as Durham*, could face financial collapse.

Far more significant is the tampering with one of Dearing's basic principles. The original idea was straightforward: all students from all backgrounds would be charged a tuition fee of £1,000 a year. *Loans* would be made available, repayable after graduation, to cover the fees. Such was the clarity with which Dearing addressed the funding crisis, that his report won a remarkable degree of support — not least from the Government.

Almost immediately a means-testing element was announced, whereby only *students from "well-off"* backgrounds would have to pay the fees, either in full or in *part, depending on their parents'* income. Then, in Scotland, there were two further *developments:* those able to pay would not be able to take out a loan, and English students enrolling for Scottish universities, with their four-year courses, would have to pay in full for the fourth year. Students living in Scotland would be exempt.

This has produced a huge protest, not perhaps because of *the number* affected, but because of the principle involved. Students, of all people, should be encouraged to seek *the widest horizons:* to regard geographical boundaries as irrelevant when broadening *their experience.* To introduce even the smallest element of discrimination into the United Kingdom education system is a retrograde step, just as devolution looms. *University* principals worry that it will drive foreign students away, *encourage parochialism* and sow resentment among English and Welsh students, many *of whom regard some Scottish* universities as equal contenders with Oxford and Cam*bridge and have flocked north.*

Brian Wilson, the Education Minister at the Scottish Office, *believes only a minority of* students from England would be affected, and that most would be *sufficiently well off to* shrug the extra charge aside. "Do they really, honestly, *believe that all of the minority* who will be asked to pay ... come from family circum*stances in which the imposi*tion of a £1,000 fee, over a four-year course, is going to be the *crucial determinant ... who is* kidding whom?" he demands.

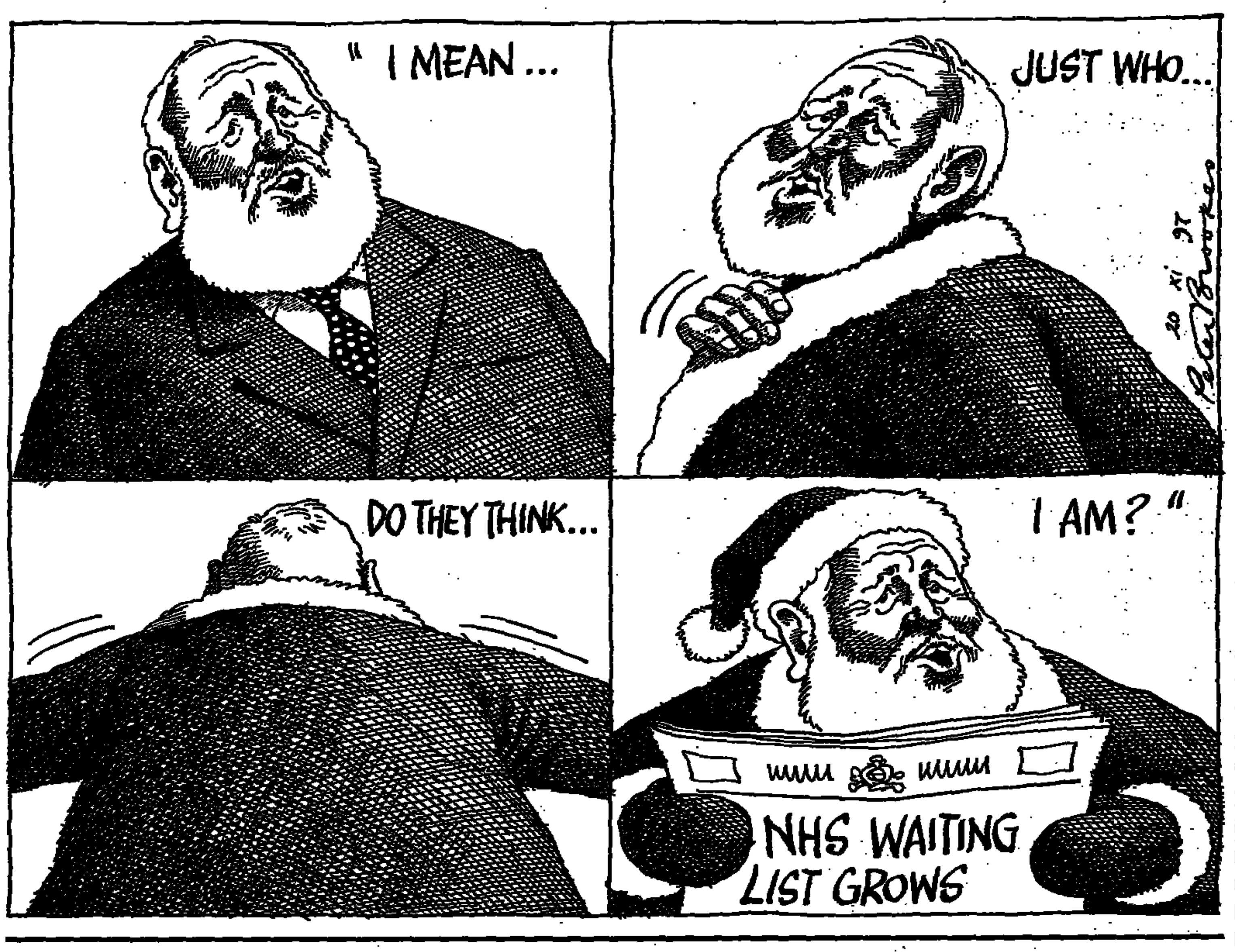
Well, he *may* be kidding *himself. How can he possibly* know? As anyone who has studied *the means-testing* principle accepts, it can act as a powerful *disincentive* to those least able to afford it. *Students from* middle-income families, at the bot*tom end of the non*-exempt range, will now have to contemplate find*ing tuition fees "up front"*, will be ineligible for loans, and may be in no position to *contemplate the additional* cost of travelling to a university which charges extra for *certain citizens in different* parts of the United Kingdom.

Scottish universities worry about resentment over the border

S*tudents are likely to* choose the cheaper alternative, which in most *cases will be their home-town* university. Means-testing takes no account of those who *may appear on paper to be* well-off, but who may have a range of other financial commitments. And, of course, it ignores those parents who, for reasons which may be unfathomable, are simply unwilling to pay for their student progeny.

This is all a long way from Dearing. When the report was published last July it was *welcomed by universities* because it placed its emphasis not just on improving access to *higher education, but on finding* funds to improve its range and quality. David Blunkett, *the Education Secretary*, spoke about the need for resources to be "directed back *into lifelong learning*". *There* was no mention of discrimination or limiting opportunities *— exactly the opposite.*

There is still time for clarification, for a restatement of aims, and above all for the removal of unnecessary barriers to higher education. Universities should be cosmopolitan and open to the widest possible range of students. *It* would be a pity if narrow parochialism was introduced *just at the point where they* should be spreading their educational wings.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Is gold only for fools?

That which glisters may not always be a sensible investment — but we continue to be fascinated by it

William Rees-Mogg

I*n the past fifteen years an* interest in gold has not been a good way to make money, but it *has been a good way to think* about money. Probably the most successful and certainly the most *powerful of central bankers in the* 1990s has been Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve. His *understanding of the world's monetary* system was partly built on his study of the old gold standard. In *1966 he wrote a paper Gold and Economic Freedom*, in which he argued that "in the absence of the gold *standard, there is no way to* protect savings from confiscation through inflation". He was still *something of a gold theorist when I* met him in the Nixon years.

Now that inflation has been *slowed, the public has become less* worried about it. Nevertheless, in Britain the subtle theft of inflation *continues to reduce the purchasing* power of money; by 20 per cent since 1990, by 57 per cent since 1980 and by 98 per cent *since* 1914. *The century* of paper money has been a century of depreciation. The rate of decline may *vary in the future, but the decline* itself can be expected to continue. Greenspan's statement of 1966 may seem *almost other-worldly but it has*, in fact, proved correct.

The recent fall in the gold price has *taken gold back through an interesting* landmark. The purchasing power of an ounce of the metal is below *where it was before Britain went off* the gold standard in 1931. If one takes the purchasing power of gold in 1930 *as 100, the purchasing power today* stands at 91. The history of gold prices shows a centuries-old pattern *which, in his book published in 1977,* Professor Roy Jastram called "the Golden Constant". He established *that the general level of prices had* historically moved above and below the gold price, but had always been *drawn back towards it.*

The gold value of a sovereign now has much the same purchasing *power as it would have had in 1972*, 1874, 1857, 1821, 1794, 1776 or 1723, or, indeed, in 1649, the year Cromwell cut off the head of Charles I. In 1997 we can see gold once again performing its strangest trick of all, and acting as a long-term measure of value. It has behaved in this way for an amazingly long time. Although the two metals have since diverged because of changes in mining tech*nologies, the ratio of the prices of gold* and silver was the same in the first year of the reign of Queen Victoria as *it had been in the last year of the* reign of the Emperor Augustus.

Nobody can study the history of gold *without becoming* fascinated by these long-term price relationships. Gold is at present on the cheap side of *its historic value in Britain; farmland* in England has usually been worth between five and ten ounces of gold *an acre, according to the quality of* the land. At £170 an ounce, that would give a price of £850 to £1,700 an *acre, which is at present on the low* side. On the other hand, £20 an acre, which was then equivalent to five *ounces of* gold, *was normal for* farmland throughout the agricultural *depression* from the 1870s to the 1940s.

When gold had *its last great boom,* it went to $800 an ounce. That was the *result of a* worldwide panic about inflation in the 1970s and early 1980s. Now *all serious investors have* given up on it. The goldbugs still have a sentimental nostalgia for the days *when one could actually make* money out of gold-related investments, but they have prophesied so many false *dawns that their arguments no* longer have any place in sober investment analysis. No investment *fashion has been so thoroughly* exploded as gold; most people think that there will no more be another *gold boom than there will be another* boom in tulip futures in The Netherlands.

One cannot be so sure about the future of this mysterious metal. Roy Jastram gives a table of the purchas*ing power of gold, starting from 1600.* It has certainly outperformed paper currencies.

Year	Purchasing Power of Gold
1600	125
1650	97
1700	120
1750	111
1800	76
1850	111
1900	143
1950	103

I suppose that one might have been *pretty gloomy about the outlook for* gold in 1800. William Pitt might fall; Napoleon might invade; Nelson *might lose at Trafalgar; Wellington* might lose at Waterloo; Rothschild and Barings might lose control of the gold *market. Yet gold's purchasing* power rose by 50 per cent in the next 50 years and doubled in the next *century. From the present level of* 91, the index could repeat that performance in the 21st century, or it could *just remain its constant self, as it did* in the 17th.

Even the stock market perfor*mance of gold investments does not* all go one way: I have recently had an *intriguing* letter from Andrew Lampert, well *known in the gold* world as a director of Midland Walwyn, a Toronto investment firm with the courage to have a gold bias. *He sent me a chart of the share price* of Homestake Mining, an American S. gold producer, measured against the *Dow Jones index*. Ten thousand dollars invested in Homestake in 1892 would now be worth a little over *$1,000,000; $10,000* invested in the Dow would be worth a little less than $1,000,000. But the experience in between *would have been very different*. Homestake outperformed the index from 1892 to about 1910, *underperformed from 1910 to 1929*, outperformed spectacularly in the 1930s, and underperformed in the *1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s.* "The Dow Jones traded around the 1,000 level from 1966 to 1982 and *Homestake appreciated by 466 per* cent. In the past 15 years, the Dow Jones has gained a massive 645 per *cent against Homestake moving up* by just 8 per cent." Perhaps the pendulum will eventually swing *again; pendulums often do.*

Most people think of gold as a protection against inflation, and expect it to rise in inflationary periods, but fall with deflation. Roy Jastram examined the UK and American price record to 1976, and reached these rather unexpected conclusions:

"1. Gold is a poor hedge against major inflations.
2. Gold appreciates in operational wealth in major deflations.
3. Gold does maintain its purchasing power over long periods of time."

The *current* purchasing power of gold in Britain is close to the historic lows of the Civil War, the collapse of the South Sea bubble, the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, the First World War and the *General Strike.* Gold *may* not be cheap, but for the British it hardly looks expensive — not unless we are *expecting* a war, *a crash* or a general strike in the near future.

It looks very different in Asia. The *South* East Asian *economies of* Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have all devalued against the dollar *in the past six months; so has South* Korea; the big Japanese devaluation has continued. In terms of all of these *currencies,* gold has *been static or* firm. It has not done as well as the dollar, but it has served its traditional *function of acting as a stable reserve.* It has also met its textbook desciption of being both a real asset, such as *property, and a liquid one, such as* cash.

A*t present, the dollar is king* of the world currencies; most of the Asian currencies have devalued against it and even the euro has been prospectively devalued against it, 18 months *before it has even come into existence.* Sterling has also appreciated, and has been stronger than the dollar itself. Yet some commentators fear that the Asian devaluations may be the first of a wave of competitive *global devaluations, like those in the* 1930s, which included Europe and America. In the 1930s almost every currency was devalued in terms of gold.

Several of the world's central banks have recently been selling gold, on the argument that the dollar offers both appreciation and *an interest yield, while gold has* depreciated and provided no income. So far they have been right, but *what will they do if the dollar itself has* to be devalued? Already, the United States has a trade deficit and *is far from competitive in* cost with Asia. At some point in the future, the dollar may be seen as unsustainably overvalued. Then presumably the dollar price of gold will start to rise — the 2,500-year history of gold as a store of value may be far from finished.

Why the US won't go to war

Michael Kelly

on a nation too squeamish to fight

In the summer and autumn of 1995, as the war in Bosnia was winding down, I spent a couple of months in Bihac, a small, handsome mountain *city in the* northwest corner of the country then entering its last days under Serbian siege. Bihac *was defended by the* Bosnian Army's V Corps, which had built itself up from a few platoons of local volunteers *armed* with Kalashnikovs and hunting rifles into a great, if unconventional, fighting force. For *more* than two years the V Corps held off a vastly better-armed encircling force, and the war they fought was more like 1917 than 1995.

The soldiers at the front lived for months at a time in slit trenches and scant bunkers of sandbags and tree branches, dug in along wooded ridges and hills. They had, for *most* of the war, so little ammunition that it was common for troops to go into battle with 20 rounds apiece. They fought in short, furious bursts, emerging from their holes in the mud to charge *the enemy line* in *shooting,* stabbing, shrieking onslaughts that usually ended with everyone on one side or the other *wounded or dead.*

These soldiers were mostly young and mostly untrained, but they had become greatly familiar with war and familiarity had bred its usual contempt. While they still feared death, they no longer respected it. This had some unhappy consequences. There was a lot of mental depression in Bihac. But the devaluing of life had also served its great purpose. It had freed the people from their normal *inhibitions* about killing and being killed, and this in turn had kept them from being killed. Accepting death, it turned out, was indispensable to defeating death.

This is a troubling idea to contemplate as the United States worries, again, about *what to do about* Baghdad. Saddam Hussein's ability to agitate America rests on his *understanding that America has* developed a phobia of military death. While the Americans have become *weirdly numb to the horror of death* in the civilian sphere (on the streets, in the movies), they have evolved *what amounts to a zero tolerance* policy for death on the battlefield, and not just American death, any death. In *Bosnia,* America *watched* the Serbs conduct a genocidal campaign, and did nothing of practical import *for three years, because they didn't* want to be responsible for anyone being killed — not even the perpetra*tors of genocide.*

The Gulf conflict was, per capita, probably the most death-free war ever waged. *In all* the war, there was only one scene of really troubling mass slaughter, the savaging by air and by tank *of the Iraqi forces fleeing* home from their rout in Kuwait. And this scene ended the war.

Looking at the burnt, exploded bodies a few days after the attack, it *seemed* obvious to me that the war must instantly end; there could be no justification for continuing unilateral slaughter. This seemed obvious to a lot of other people too, some of them *professional military* men and some of them advisers to the President. So the war ended, abruptly and disastrously, with Saddam Hussein in power and protected by the well-paid, heavily armed Republican Guard, which American forces could have destroyed in a few days then.

It seems obvious to me now that *what seemed obvious* to me then was the usual result of a little knowledge intruding suddenly on total ignorance. *I had never seen the results of* war, and the results horrified me out of my wits. In this, I was of course typical of *my generation of reporters.* The result is, in matters military, a press corps that *is* forever suffering a collective case of *the vapours. At the* least exposure to the most unremarkable facts of military life — soldiers can be brutes and *pigs, generals can* be stupid, bullets can be fatal — we are forever shocked, forever reaching for the sal volatile.

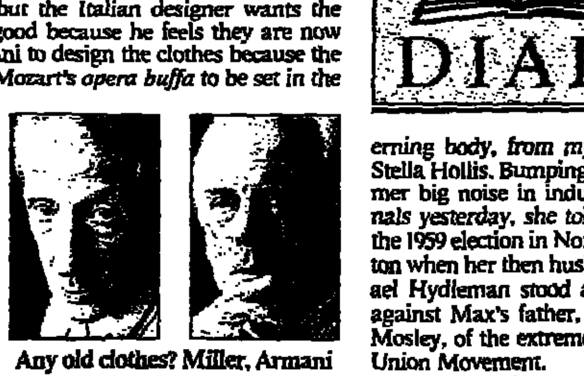
The media's generational horror at war's *truths* reflects the *larger* society's views, and this larger society includes the military itself. Not since Vietnam *has America faced a serious* war, involving a serious level of death (and Vietnam's 58,000 American coffins were a fraction *of the butchers'* bills paid in the great wars), and that conflict ended a quarter of a century ago. We are a nation in which there are fewer and fewer people, and they are older and older people, who accept what every 12-year-old in Bihac knows: that there are things worth dying for, and killing for.

So, Americans will let Saddam Hussein stall them until he has hidden what weapons of mass death he needs to hide, and then he will let the UN inspectors back in, and the Americans will live with that. Or they will inflict *some suffering on Iraq*, and kill some people, but not too many, because the people — the American *people, that is* — will not be able to stand the pictures. And the Americans can live with that too. But *one of these days*, somebody — the North Koreans come to mind — is going to start a real war. And then we will *find out* what we can really live with.

Michael Kelly is a writer for The National Journal *in Washington.*

Miller's tale

GIORGIO ARMANI *and the Royal Opera House have fallen out over its* plans to use his costumes for a revival of the Jonathan Miller production of *Così fan tutte*. The opera company owns the garb, which first appeared at Covent Garden two years ago, but the Italian designer wants the costumes to remain in storage for good because he feels they are now *passé*. Dr Miller asked Signor Armani to design the clothes because the polymath wanted *his production of* Mozart's *opera buffa* to be set in the Nineties. First performed in 1995, the production proved such a *success that it was revived* earlier this year. Second time round, most of the cast were dressed in new costumes, though *once again* designed by Mr Armani.



Any old clothes? Miller, Armani

But when the Royal Opera House began planning a third run at its *temporary* home at the Shaftesbury Theatre next March, it received a letter *pronto* from the *designer, refusing to give permission* for his creations to re-appear. "Dr Miller's *Così* is such a modern *production, it's of today,*" a custodian of the House of Armani explains. "If you use costumes from 1995, *it just would not be up to* date." Despite the designer's unhelpful attitude, the Royal Opera House is still hopeful of resolving the dispute in time for the production to go ahead next March, as planned. "We expect everyone will end up dressed appropriately," a friend at the opera company suggested *sotto voce*.

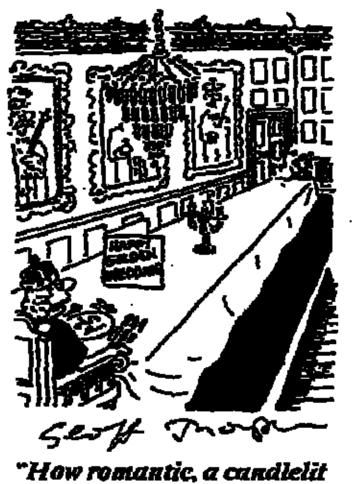
THE TIMES DIARY

More Max

AFTER my disclosures earlier this week about the reckless youth of Max Mosley, I was delighted to hear more about the Labour Party contributor and president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, motor racing's governing body, from my old friend Stella Hollis. Bumping into the former big noise in industrial tribu*nals yesterday, she told me about* the 1959 election in North Kensington when her then husband, Michael Hydleman stood as a *Liberal* against Max's father, Sir Oswald Mosley, of the extreme right-wing Union Movement.

As Mr Hydleman hauled his soap box around the streets of Notting Hill expounding his pro-*immigration* views, Stella *recalls* how he was confronted by the young Max. "With flaming red *hair and fanatic eyes, he screamed* foul aggressive vituperation and was always accompanied by a *group of thugs. It was my one* and only experience of politics. But it was hugely rewarding: Sir Oswald *came bottom of the poll and* crept away to live in France."

● *THE angelic Hollywood star Leonardo di Caprio was almost sunk by a crisis when he was over here this week for the premiere of his latest film,* The Titanic. *Not only had he failed to pack a black tie, but he was also ignorant of the fine art of tying one. The problem became even more acute when he turned for help to his hotel, the Metropolitan in London's Park Lane, and discovered it was also sartorially challenged. After much head scratching, a footman from the neighbouring but more traditional Four Seasons Hotel was called in with bow tie and, naturally, instructions.*



"How romantic, a candlelit dinner for two"

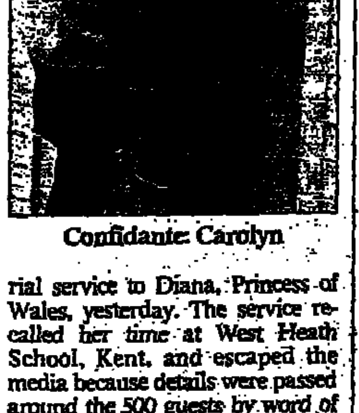
Regal rolecall

AFTER Tai-Shan Schierenberg's unflattering portrait of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh was unveiled last month, HRH has turned to Andrew Festing, the artist son of Field Marshall Sir Francis Festing, to mark her 50th wedding anniversary. She has commissioned him to paint her along with her husband and 20 royal guests, including the luxuriously tided Queen Fabiola and the Prince of Asturias. Mr Festing will work from a photograph taken during the celebrations, with some relief; when he painted the Queen in 1994 he was heard to complain that "she moves rather a lot".

● *POOR Mohamed Al Fayed. Invitations were sent out last week to Harrods' wealthier customers, bidding them to a Christmas party next month. Among the promised attractions is a free raffle. The prize? A Nile cruise to Luxor.*

Fond farewell

TO St Martin-in-the-Fields, Central London, for the private memorial service to Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday. The service recalled her time at West Heath School, Kent, and escaped the media because details were passed around the 500 guests by word of mouth. Among those paying tribute was Carolyn Bartholomew — schoolfriend, flatmate and confidante. It was one of the most poignant services the church has seen.



Confidante: Carolyn

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأهل

GOLDEN DUKE

Anniversary greetings to the consort behind the throne

More than 100,000 couples are celebrating their golden weddings this year. Today the Queen and Prince Philip represent them all, just as they represent the United Kingdom in other public acts of the theatre of private life. Most Britons alive today have no memory of any householders at Buckingham Palace other than the Queen and her Duke.

Yesterday's lunch in the formality of Guildhall was an unusually informal and national family affair. As is customary at private but not at State celebrations, the husband made the speech. Prince Philip made a handsome joke of how the Lord Mayor and the Prime Minister (with whom Queen and Duke lunch today) had tossed for speakers, and the City lost and got him as tails. The tone was self-deprecating, the sort of clubhouse humour that any traditional English husband reaching his marital half-century might deploy.

To survive 50 years of marriage against the changes and chances of everyday life has always been a matter for congratulation. And in spite of greatly increased life expectancy since 1947, golden weddings are becoming rarer. People are living longer, but divorce is becoming commonplace. So a golden wedding has become a cause for surprise as well as congratulation.

Commonly at a golden wedding, both partners are congratulated equally. But in the royal marriage of a Queen, the husband can become the forgotten half of the partnership. The English are jealous of their Queens. Elizabeth I never married; Prince George of Denmark is forgotten; and Victoria was firmly advised not to create Prince Albert King. But in his difficult role of junior partner, the Duke has played his part as living metaphor for the enormous changes that have happened since his wedding.

They say that this is the people's century of the common man. But its second half has become the half-century of the ascent of woman. Prince Philip's performance of his role three steps behind the Queen has set an example in the new world in which women now constitute a rising proportion of the workforce, and have become the breadwinners for many households. Without ever running the risk of being described as a wimp or a house husband, he has shown that there is dignity and usefulness in a supportive role. His public relations can be rough and bluff. But the traditional European aristocrat of 50 years ago has swum well with the emergent tides of history.

His charitable works both on stage and behind the scenes are helping to create a modern civil society. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than just a useful entry on an UCCA form. Since it was founded more than 2.5 million young people who are not all going to triumph in other ways have found hearty adventure and enterprise through it. Prince Philip enjoys the ancient royal blood sports. But he was an environmentalist before it became a fashion of the age, and as President Emeritus of the Worldwide Fund for Nature he is leading its campaigns for forests this year and the oceans next year. Even Cambridge's dons admire his lobbying behind the scenes for the university as Chancellor.

He has a reputation for speaking his mind, and occasionally for putting his foot in his mouth. But people rather like the royal loose cannon, in the way that they admired the supporting and occasionally indiscreet role played by Denis Thatcher. Similarly they like the no-nonsense attitudes and robust sense of humour of the Princess Royal, the child who is most like him.

It takes two to make a marriage. It can take a hero as well as a heroine to make a golden wedding. So in the loyal celebrations, let us not forget the Duke behind the Throne.

ODOUR AND SANCTITY

Blair cannot escape past mistakes by making new ones

Tony Blair may have extended the length of Prime Minister's Question Time because he wanted a move away from partisan point-scoring and towards mature examination of government policy. It did not look like that yesterday. Mr Blair was asked, repeatedly, to clarify his stance on accepting money from Bernie Ecclestone and, repeatedly, ducked the issue. He chose, instead, to obscure the question of his own credibility by attacking the Tories' record. It is certainly true that skeletons still litter the Tory closet but Mr Blair cannot distract attention from his own conduct by rattling old bones. The electorate passed their own verdict on Conservative mistakes in May. If the Tories do not reform their own practices by the time of the next election the voters will be justified in withholding the trust which was forfeited in the Major years but Mr Blair is in office now and it is the Prime Minister's behaviour that is properly in the spotlight. The glare in which he luxuriated may now be trained on areas he would rather keep hidden but it will not abate until a satisfactory explanation is offered to the questions which remain.

The central question raised by William Hague and his colleagues yesterday is painful and pertinent. The Prime Minister says he had decided on November 5 that he would not accept any further donations from Bernie Ecclestone. Given the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from its proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship such a judgment was only prudent. Yet the General Secretary of the Labour Party, Tom Sawyer, wrote to Sir Patrick Neill on November 7 asking if a further donation "might properly be accepted". Why ask Sir Patrick if it was all right to sin when a decision had already been taken to be virtuous? Mr Blair asked the Commons yesterday to respect him for accepting Sir Patrick's advice. Having gone out of his way to ask, he could hardly have ignored Sir Patrick's response, but why did he ask in the first place if he had no intention of ever accepting? Mr Blair should not test public tolerance so brazenly.

He should certainly not use the events of the last fortnight as a justification for pre-empting the conclusions of Sir Patrick's review of party funding. The Prime Minister's enlistment of Paddy Ashdown in an effort to lay down the law now is an attempt to dispel the odour of the past fortnight with sanctity. Mr Hague was right to assert that he will make his own submissions in his own time. The Conservatives' position would certainly be strengthened by greater openness. Mr Hague has promised to publish the names of Tory donors and his party is late, by its own timetable, in publishing its accounts. Disclosure would free him to make the principled case against the proposals Mr Blair is keen to promote.

There is no doubt that the arguments need to be made as vigorously as possible. Attempts to cap the amounts individuals and organisations can spend at election time could prove a curtailment of liberty and a limit on pluralism. It may even run counter to the European Convention on Human Rights. Before any such steps are taken the Opposition must test whether these are disinterested improvements to democracy or the defensive strike of a party which wants to minimise the consequences of future unpopularity by padlocking its enemies' safes.

RUSSIA TAKES CENTRE STAGE

A more pragmatic Russia is earning respect from the West

The Russians are back on the world stage — and the West is happy to welcome them. The four-power meeting in Geneva in the early hours of this morning, called to co-ordinate a united Security Council response to Saddam Hussein, underlines the crucial role that Moscow is again playing in a world crisis. The difference this time, unlike the period before the Gulf War, is that Moscow does not appear to be seeking unilateral advantage. No longer is a communist country trying to undercut the West with ideological blandishments to dictators: President Yeltsin's Russia now demonstrates a political maturity and pragmatism that are the most striking testaments to the democratic revolution that swept away the Soviet Union.

For several years after the collapse of communism, Russians were bewildered by the loss of empire and status. They demanded to be treated still with the deference and respect accorded to the former superpower; in return, however, they often displayed only petulance and posturing, uncertain of their interests, policies or ideological bearings. Andrei Kozyrev, the pro-Western Foreign Minister, took his country down the path of practical co-operation with the West; but nationalists and communists at home plotted constantly to undermine him. Even Mr Yeltsin blew hot and cold on his new friends in the West, sometimes offering co-operation, but at other times banging the old drum of Russian special interests.

A calmer, more pragmatic and unified line now prevails. Economic reform, growing co-operation with international financial organisations and a preoccupation with domestic living standards have all pushed the country into pursuing its interests in a more intelligent and less strident way. Earlier nationalist support for Serbia has given way to a restraining influence on Belgrade and effective military co-operation with Nato in Bosnia. The noisy campaign against Nato enlargement has been silenced as Russia tries to make the most of the Nato-Russia accord. Russia is at last taking seriously the need for a new relationship with Japan, including a fresh look at its occupation of the northern islands. Mr Yeltsin has just signed a landmark border agreement with China. And, most important of all, in the most sensitive areas — the former Soviet republics — restraint has replaced bullying.

Not all the old policies or personalities have changed. Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, is a former senior communist, an old apparatchik who held top posts in the Politburo and the KGB. His friendship with Saddam, his previous record in the Gulf and a still grudging co-operation with the West suggest that he would be an awkward partner if allowed to dictate policy. Luckily, Mr Yeltsin and the rest of the Government are so firmly set on reform that they can insist on a closer web of contacts with the West. Just as the dismissal of Anatoli Chubais as Finance Minister no longer signals a defeat for reform, so Mr Primakov's conversations with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, are no longer a threat to Security Council unity. Russia has earned its return to centre stage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ferries must pay for deportations

From Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, Director-General of the Chamber of Shipping

Sir, Your leading article, "Attention all shipping" (November 14), asks why ferry operators should pay for ministerial blunders. It is wholly unjust that this national and indeed European problem should be laid at the door of the ferry companies. The problem is who should be allowed to stay in this country, not how they get here.

The ferry companies bring in these passengers legally and in good faith and have neither the responsibility nor the practical means of turning them away. It is therefore an issue that the Government must tackle both within the UK and in Europe.

Because the right to travel across Europe without visas is now available to people in many countries outside the EU there is nothing to prevent large numbers travelling quite legally as tourists coming to the UK and then seeking political asylum. No doubt the Government will refuse most applications but the cost of housing and feeding these people while they are being processed, and then of sending them home, will be very high.

The fundamental issue is one of immigration policy. This is the responsibility of the Government, not of private companies.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HUNT,
Director-General,
The Chamber of Shipping,
Carthusian Court,
13 Carthusian Street, EC1.
November 14.

From the Minister for Immigration

Sir, Your leading article describes my irritation at the Dublin Convention, but it is strange to call it "outrageous" for a minister to point out that it is a criminal offence for ferry companies to fail to comply with the law.

You suggest that there is a difference between "making arrangements" for someone's removal and paying for it. What does making arrangements mean if it doesn't include paying? It certainly does not mean that the taxpayer has to pay.

As to detention costs, of the 1,000 or so Czech and Slovak asylum-seekers brought to Dover in recent months, only 49 are detained. As carriers are only liable for the first 14 days of detention, the costs are limited.

The French do not refuse to accept returned passengers because more than 24 hours has elapsed: they do so because these people have claimed asylum and they say that, under the Convention, France is not responsible for considering that application.

Carriers who profit from bringing in people should pay for the return of those who are not admissible. It would not be fair to pass that burden to the taxpayer.

If the ferry companies wish to campaign for change, that is fine, but in the meantime the law is clear. It is hard to see how disagreement with the law can be a reasonable excuse for not complying with it.

Yours etc,
MIKE O'BRIEN,
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
November 18.

Sexual stereotypes

From Mr Stephen Powers

Sir, Your feature, "Do these ads demean men?" (November 12), suggests that advertisements showing men as sex objects may indicate change in a traditionally sexist industry. From the pictures used to illustrate your story, however, it would appear that advertisers and agencies still like women's legs to be long, their heels to be high and their figures to be slim and curvaceous — just the way we chaps are supposed to like them.

All I can see is advertisers becoming more sophisticated in the way they manipulate stereotypes; the objectification of women appears to be as degrading as ever.

Times changing? I think not.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN POWERS,
55 Hythe Close,
Forest Park,
Bracknell, Berkshire.
November 13.

Preservation of Oxbridge privileges

From the President of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, I have just returned from Beijing, where I had the privilege of co-chairing with a Chinese professor a unique workshop on administrative law under the sponsorship of the European Commission. The Chinese delegates included judges, members of the practising profession and academics. While they may not have been wholly familiar with European concepts of the rule of law or judicial review, one facet of my chairmanship produced immediate recognition — my association with Oxford University.

During the conference I was also entertained by the editor-in-chief of the leading Chinese law publishing house, who expressed an interest in acquiring for translation English law books, as he put it in a memorandum, "recommended for students by Oxford University".

Can it really be sensible to put at risk a reputation which has penetrated so far and so well (report, "Peers join forces to defend £35m Oxbridge subsidy", November 13; letters, November 7, 11)? What do they know of Oxford who only England know?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BELOFF,
Trinity College, Oxford.
November 17.

From Professor John Sutherland

Sir, It is a perverse triumph of spin to have diverted the current debate on higher education to the desirability of cuts in funding.

The department in which I work came top in *The Times Good University Guide* with Oxford, edging out Cambridge. We — like them — offer one-to-one tutorials to all our students. This would seem to me a reason for some modest increase in our funding, rather than a punitive raid on the income of Oxbridge. The pennies which would result from any equitable redistribution of the £35 million will not help us and it will damage them.

It is grotesque to have to say it, but British higher education does not need disinvestment under the guise of "fairness". It needs sensible investment in all its sectors.

Yours etc,
JOHN SUTHERLAND
(Lord Northcliffe Professor
of Modern English Literature),
University College London,
Department of English,
London WC1E 6BT.
uclejas@ucl.ac.uk
November 13.

From Mr Duncan Fallowell

Sir, In the Michaelmas issue of *Oxford Today*, the official university magazine, the editorial introduction to a survey of new Oxonian MPs begins: "It is a healthy sign that the proportion of MPs educated at Oxbridge is in decline . . ."

I find this death wish in one of the two most successful English institutions quite terrifying. And if the editor appears to consider the influence of Oxford on national life unhealthy, why doesn't she edit something else?

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN FALLOWELL,
44 Leamington Road Villas, W11.
November 13.

From Dr James Doyle

Sir, Lord Plant of Highfield holds that Oxford's research excellence would be harmed by any funding cuts and the consequent threat to the collegiate system.

I am a recently retired teacher from Edinburgh Medical School. There we had to cope with an overnight 50 per cent cut in the medical library's periodical and journals fund. Our dental school was just abolished.

We suffered these losses while the Oxbridge extra cash was being paid. In the Lords debate it was suggested that it was "the politics of envy" to criticise this anomaly. Well, I plead guilty: my face went the colour of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead's favourite claret with envy.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOYLE,
27 Learmonth Terrace, Edinburgh 4.
November 14.

Climate change

From the Vice-President of the British Association of Colliery Management

Sir, I must take issue with the Deputy Prime Minister's letter (November 17) responding to Bronwen Maddox's article on the American approach to climate change (Business, November 13). US policy is not "simply [to] delay by ten years the promises we made at Rio". Rather it is seeking to minimise future increases in emissions. In relation to carbon reductions the US is rightly worried that laudable, but hasty, action in the developed world might see heavy industries in the West transfer to third-world locations where the likelihood is they would be less not more energy efficient.

What must also be challenged is Mr Prescott's statement that "action on climate change need not harm economic growth". Fulfilling the 10 per cent reduction in CO_2 by 2010 (the so-called Berlin Mandate) would do more damage to the West than the oil crisis of the 1970s. The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory estimates the impact on US energy prices to be an increase of between 80 per cent and 90 per cent.

In seeking multilateral agreement the Government should not pretend that the targets are painless, and perhaps they could also explain why the UK is unilaterally committed to twice the level of pain required by other countries.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COURTNEY,
Vice-President, British Association of Colliery Management,
17 South Parade,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
November 18.

NHS waiting lists

From Mr E. M. Holt, FRCS, FRCOG

Sir, I have just finished watching *Animal Hospital* on BBC1. In this programme they were taking a tortoise into the hospital for two days' observation prior to its hibernation.

My patients who have any condition that can be described as non-urgent have to wait up to 18 months to have NHS operations. Are we living in a sane country?

Yours etc,
E. M. HOLT,
Frieze Farm, Crowsley,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
November 13.

Long road home

From Mr D. E. Rae

Sir, My wife's aunt in Dorset wrote in the summer, correctly addressing the envelope, postcode and all.

We received it only three months later, the Post Office having misread Hants as Haiti.

Yours sincerely,
D. E. RAE,
Kingfishers, Brookside Road,
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.
November 18.

Parish audit fees

From the Chairman of Bishopsbourne Parish Council

Sir, Your report of today (earlier editions) headed "Parish refuses to pay auditor's fee" highlights a countrywide scandal. Our parish councils are being treated as if we were Westminster City Council.

Bishopsbourne is very similar to Mappowder, with a precept of £650 last year with 191 electors. We also give grants to the village hall and the church and are responsible for the bus shelter. Last year the audit fee that we had to pay was £92. This year we have been told that the audit fee to be charged by the Audit Commission will be "greater than in the past. The increased fee, which still has to be finalised, is a result of the new regulations."

The Audit Commissions charges are excessive and an additional tax burden on our council-tax payers for no return when our accounts could be audited in about half an hour.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. GRAHAM,
Chairman,
Bishopsbourne Parish Council,
Pheasants Hall, Bishopsbourne,
Nr Canterbury, Kent.
November 15.

Turkish question

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, If I provide the information that will allow your Internet-literate readers to vote for Peter Mandelson, Desperate Dan or whomever they fancy in the *Time* magazine poll, do you think they might consider laying off writing snide letters about the number of votes Ataturk has received (letters, November 10, 13, 17)?

I do think this would be helpful, especially at a time when British diplomacy is trying to persuade the Turks to allow the Incirlik base to be used to attack Iraq, and as usual is offering nothing in return.

Well, I can only try. *Time* magazine is actually looking for the 100 most important people of the century, divided into five categories. The *Time* web site www.time.com talks you through these and allows you to vote. Or you can vote by e-mail on time100@time.com

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Savile Club,
69 Brook Street, W1.
November 17.

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, From my recent experience of teaching university students in Turkey I am impressed by the loyalty and affection shown by Turks of differing political views and social classes for the founder of the modern Turkish state. (In the West we show perhaps less gratitude and regard for our forebears.)

Kemal Ataturk's achievements, by the standards of the time, were astounding. In the aftermath of a devastating war, he created a new, modern, non-imperial state. He abolished the Sultanate and the Caliphate.

He diverted the activities of the Islamic clergy from destructive fanaticism into constructive educational and social welfare policies. He created a popular education system, abolished polygamy, freed women from the veil and other discriminatory policies, introduced the Latin script and adopted Western codes of law.

As H. A. L. Fisher wrote in his *History of Europe* (1936), "the dervish, the chiromancer, the magician, the dice thrower and amulet seller were decreed out of existence".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh 9.
November 11.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Getting about by train and by bike

From Mr Tom Culver

Sir, It is ironic that only two days after a guard told me that South West Trains is planning to introduce charges for cycles I read in your issue of today that Railtrack is hoping to open cycle-hire agencies at stations.

Railtrack has got it almost right. By combining rail and cycle travel one can get to almost anywhere in England. Any person fit enough to walk one mile can cycle five; and one can count on doing about ten miles an hour without very much effort.

I am an overweight 59-year-old barrister and I manage to get to most of the courts in London on my bike, and over much of the South East by train and bike. I get there as quickly as I could by public transport, and often more quickly than one could by car. I cycle all the year round, as can any fit person. I regard cycle and train as the future for terrestrial travel.

However, cycle hire at stations is not quite the answer. Cycles are more like shoes than cars: they need to fit you, and any regular cyclist is not only more comfortable on his own bike but safer — he knows where the brakes and gears are and is comfortable with the balance.

What is needed, therefore, is facilities for bikes on trains. Some rail companies, including South West Trains, are beginning to encourage bikes. But charges and the need to pre-book are immense disincentives. Perhaps Railtrack could waive charges for those parts of carriages used for transporting cycles.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CULVER,
Cloisters,
1 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.
November 17.

From Inspector Adrian Walter

Sir, May I suggest that the Railtrack directors take their bicycle hire scheme one stage further and concrete over the track between Hertford North and Moorgate. I could then cycle to work, which would be more reliable and arguably quicker.

Yours etc,
A. P. WALTER,
The NMIS Project Office,
Room 201,
Tintagel House,
Albert Embankment, SE1.
November 18.

Traffic congestion

From Mr Don McIntyre

Sir, Your report of November 10 on the recent congestion survey by Trafficmaster was misleadingly headlined: "Wider motorways blamed for jams". In fact the survey clearly states that:

> The increased rate of congestion is being influenced by the relatively buoyant state of the economy, which makes use of transport for business and leisure more likely.

The recently published *Road Traffic Forecasts (Great Britain) 1997* points out that lack of road improvement appears to be no deterrent to growth in use:

> Road improvements on the Isle of Wight have been minimal. There are no motorways or trunk roads there, but traffic has grown at least as fast as in Great Britain as a whole.

Our transport problems, and the critical need for further road improvements, alongside demand-management measures and improved public transport, are far too serious to be misrepresented by catchy headlines.

Yours faithfully,
DON McINTYRE,
Head of Highways and Traffic,
Freight Transport Association,
Hermes House,
St John's Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
November 18.

Blessed villages

From Mr P. L. Crosland

Sir, Only 30 villages are believed to share the luck experienced by Aisholt on the Quantocks of having all combatants return alive from the First War (letter, November 15). According to the Somerset volume of the *King's England* series these were known as "thankful villages", though luck undoubtedly played a part.

All eight combatants returned from the Second World War to the tiny Somerset village of Stocklinch, adding to the 19 who survived the Great War. I doubt if many other villages were as fortunate as these two.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CROSLAND,
Sprackets Orchard,
Curry Rivel,
Langport, Somerset.
November 17.

An everyday tale

From Mr Jon Massey

Sir, Is the plan to sacrifice children's Radio 4 in favour of an extra episode of *The Archers* the first example of the dum-di-dum-di-dum-di-dumbing-down of the BBC?

Yours etc,
JON MASSEY,
Knackersknowle Cottage,
Whitleigh Avenue,
Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon.
November 18.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 17: The Princess Royal, President, this morning visited the Save the Children Fund shop in Mill Street, Ballymena, and was received by Colonel James Leslie (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of County Antrim).

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the Royal Ulster Constabulary Regional Headquarters, Maydown, Londonderry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Londonderry (Colonel Sir Michael McCorkell).

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Hilden Controlled Integrated Primary School, Lisburn, County Antrim.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, later attended a Sense and Parents and Professionals and Autism Reception at Hillsborough Castle and was received by Mr Patrick Forde (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of County Down).

November 19: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained to Luncheon at Guildhall this afternoon by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor (Alderman Richard Nichols) and Corporation of London in celebration of the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and The Duke of Kent were present.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh viewed replicas of The Queen's Beasts given to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on the occasion of their Golden Wedding by the Corporation of London as part of the restoration of St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, following the fire.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Gala Concert, followed by Dinner, at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1, to celebrate their Golden Wedding and were received by the Chairman, South Bank Centre (Sir Brian Corby).

The Duke of York, The Prince Edward, The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, and Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, were present.

Members of Foreign Royal Families also attended.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of the trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

Lieutenant Colonel John Rose (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire) was present at Luton Airport this morning upon the Arrival of The King and Queen of Spain and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of The Queen.

The Lord Haskel (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The Grand Duke and The Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and welcomed Their Royal Highnesses on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Baroness Gould of Potternewton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Waterloo International Station, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The Queen of Denmark and The Prince of Denmark and welcomed Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on behalf of The Queen.

November 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 19: The Prince of Wales this morning received Tessa Jowell MP (Minister of State for Public Health).

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a reception for the launch of the McCarthy Foundation's Bobby Appeal at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, later received Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Caplin upon assuming the appointment of Commanding Officer, 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

His Royal Highness afterwards received the Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury).

YORK HOUSE
November 19: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, this morning attended the Annual Conference at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a thanksgiving service to mark their golden wedding anniversary in Westminster Abbey at 11.00; they will attend a luncheon hosted by HM Government at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, at 12.55. They will give a private dance at Windsor Castle at 10.30pm. Members of the Royal family will be present.

The Prince of Wales will give a luncheon at the Royal Naval College Greenwich at 1.25 for members of Royal Families and guests attending the Golden Wedding celebrations.

Memorial service

Sir Charles Cave
The Lord-Lieutenant of Devon attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Charles Cave, landowner, held yesterday at the Parish Church, Ottery St Mary. The Rev Simon Willink officiated, assisted by the Rev John Lee.

Sir John Cave and Mr Thomas Cave, sons, read the lessons. Mr Nicholas Cave, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Mr Richard Cave, son, read from the works of Siegfried Sassoon. Major-General Sir John Acland gave an address.

Today is the 50th anniversary of the marriage of The Queen to The Duke of Edinburgh.

Birthdays today

Mr M.C. Alexander, writer, 77; Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, 71; the Hon Hugh Astor, former deputy chairman, *The Times*, 77; Mr P.G. Badge, former chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, 66; Mr Gareth Chilcott, rugby player, 41; Mr Wallace Clark, Vice-Lieutenant of County Londonderry, 71; Mr Alistair Cooke, KBE, journalist and broadcaster, 89.

Mr R.M. Francis, art historian, 50; Mr Joseph J. Gaggero, chairman, GB Airways, 70; Sir Alan Goodison, former diplomat, 71; Miss Nadine Gordimer, author, 74; Miss Dulcie Gray, actress and authoress, 77; Mrs Penelope Hobhouse, horticulturist, 68; the Earl of Home, 54; Mr Aubrey Jones, former MP, 86; Sir Michael Latham, former MP, 55; Mr J.A.S. McPherson, Lord-Lieutenant of Grampian Region, 70; Sir Richard Morris, chemical engineer, 72; Sir David Price, former MP, 73; Mr A.M. Rees, former Chief Constable, Denbighshire and Staffordshire, 85; Mr Steve Smith, athlete, 25.

Luncheons

Corporation of London
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended a luncheon given by the Corporation of London yesterday at Guildhall to mark their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence, the Duke of Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent attended.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests who included:

The Ambassador of Lebanon, the High Commissioner for Uganda and Mrs Kirya, the Lord Chamberlain and the Countess of Airlie, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Duke of Grafton, KG, and the Duchess of Grafton, Commander Peter and Lady Moyra Campbell, Viscount and Viscountess Cranborne, Viscount and Viscountess Slim, the Bishop of London and Mrs Chartres, Lady Grimthorpe, Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney, Lord and Lady Astor of Hever, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and Lady Callaghan, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London and Lady Bramall, Baroness Brigstocke, Sir Denis Thatcher and Baroness Thatcher, LC, OM, FRS, Lord and Lady Lloyd of Berwick, Lord and Lady Nolan, Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, Mr John Major, MP, and Mrs Major, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, and the Hon Mrs Brooke, the Private Secretary to The Queen, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Governor of the Bank of England and Mrs George, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division and Lady Scott, the Hon Robin and Mrs Warrender, the Hon Dame Mary Corsar, Sir Robin Gillett, Mrs Nicholas Gillett, Air Chief Marshal Sir David and Lady Parry-Evans, the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service and Lady Butler, the Chief of the Defence Staff and Lady Guthrie, the Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury and Lady Burns, Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Sir Greville and Lady Spratt, Sir Peter and Lady Baldwin, General Sir Edward and Lady Burgess, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Knight, General Sir Robert and Lady Pascoe, Vice-Admiral Sir Barry and Lady Wilson, Sir John and Lady Hanson, Lady Cooper, Sir John and Lady Tilman, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, Sir Francis Pemberton, Mrs Swannell, Sir Denis Rooke, FRS, and Lady Rooke, Sir Philip and Lady Dowson, Sir Arthur and Lady Gold, Sir Aaron Klug, OM, FRS, and Lady Klug, Sir Anthony and Lady Gill, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Cass, Sir David Davies and Lady Davies, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Lady Condon, Sir Robin and Lady Knox-Johnston, Sir Stephen and Lady Tumin, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, the Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen and Mrs Janvrin, the Secretary of the Government Hospitality Fund and Mrs Earl, the Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and Mrs Astley, the Mayor and Mayoress of Greenwich, the Chairman of the Stock Exchange and Mrs Kemp-Welch, the Chairman of the Baltic Exchange, the Chairman of LIFFE and Mrs Wigglesworth, the Master of the Drapers' Company and Lady Craig-Cooper, the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company and Mrs Bennett, the Master of the Salters' Company and Mrs Stell, the Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company and Mrs Freeland, the Master of the Company of Master Mariners and Mrs Clucas, the Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company and Mrs Avery Jones, guests and representatives of the Queen's Patronages, of the Duke of Edinburgh's Patronages, of City Institutions and local government in London, Aldermen, Common Councilmen and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship
The Duke of Edinburgh attended a luncheon at The Royal College of Surgeons of England on Tuesday, hosted by Sir Arnold Elton, CBE, FRCS, to launch the World Fellowship's Medical and Science Division. The Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Arnold and Mr Simon Wakely were the speakers.

Stevenson Lecture

Professor Chris Stringer, a Palaeontologist from The Natural History Museum, will deliver the Stevenson Lecture on 'Human Evolution in Europe' at Royal Holloway, University of London, on Tuesday, November 25, at 5.30pm.

DEBS JENSON

Silke Lohmann, left, and Alexandra Sprott of Sotheby's looking at *Paul et Virginie*, by the 19th-century sculptor Prosper d'Épinay. The marble statue is based on a tragic romance set on d'Épinay's native island, Mauritius, which commissioned it in 1881. The work, last seen publicly in 1901, will be auctioned at Sotheby's today

Dinners

Inner Temple
Lord Justice Staughton, Treasurer of the Inner Temple, and the Masters of the Bench entertained at dinner in Hall last night it being Grand Day of Michaelmas Term. Among those present were:

The High Commissioner of Australia, the High Commissioner for Canada, the Earl of Mansfield and Mansfield, Earl Russell, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead (treasurer, Middle Temple), Lady Howe of Aberavon, the Hon Lady Goodhart, Sir Charles Willink, Caroline Lady Rhys Williams, Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, Sir Antony Acland, Sir John Ure, Sir Stephen Egerton, Sir Maurice Drake (treasurer, Lincoln's Inn), Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Lady Staughton, Lady Gurdon, Lady Wilkinson, Judge Esyr Lewis, QC (treasurer, Gray's Inn), Mr Morton Neal, Mr Simon Bowes Lyon, Miss Catherine Staughton, Mr David Staughton, Mr Neal Ascherson, Mr Nicholas Baring, Mr Joseph Butler-Sloss, Mr Tim Card, Mrs Jilly Cooper, Mr and Mrs Niall Donaldson, Mr Colin Harris, Mr Philip Howard, Mr Clarence Hughes and Brigadier Peter Little (sub-treasurer).

United & Cecil Club
Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host to the United & Cecil Club at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman, presided. Mr John Redwood, MP, and Mr John Bender were the speakers. Mr William Hague, Leader of the Conservative Party, attended a reception held earlier.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a dinner discussion held last night at the British Standards Institution, Chiswick.

Past Overseers Society of St Margaret & St John Westminster
The Dean of Westminster was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Past Overseers Society of St Margaret & St John Westminster held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr J.L.C. Dribbell, chairman, presided. Mr Simon Marr-Johnson also spoke.

Westminster Dining Club
Dr Jill Clough, Headmistress of Wimbledon High School, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Westminster Dining Club held last night at the Conrad International Hotel, Chelsea Harbour. Mrs Elizabeth J. Peacock and Dame Angela Rumbold, joint chairmen of the club, were the hosts.

Atlantic Council
Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, opened the fifth national conference of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom held yesterday at Church House. Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, chair, presided at the conference and dinner held afterwards.

Royal College of Pathologists
Professor Roderick MacSween, President of the Royal College of Pathologists, and Mrs MacSween were the hosts at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons after the annual meeting and foundation lecture delivered by Professor Leopold G. Koss of the Montefiore Medical Center, New York. Professor Sir David Carter was the principal speaker at the dinner.

RICS
Sir Alastair Morton of Eurotunnel and Mr Ray French were the speakers at the annual dinner of the quantity surveyors' division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held last night at Grosvenor House.

The London Institute
The Chairman of the London Institute Court of Governors, Mr Julian E. Markham, last night hosted a dinner for members of the Court. The dinner was at the London Institute Gallery in Davies Street W1 and special presentations were made to three retiring governors: Mr Alan Bennett, Ms Barbara Dohmann, QC, and Mr Bernard Gay.

Pembroke College, Cambridge
The Pembroke College Cambridge Society held a dinner last night at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, to mark the 650th anniversary of the College's foundation on Christmas eve 1347. Sir Roger Tomkys, Master, said Grace. Toasts were proposed by Mr James Crowden and Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor, and Lord Prior replied on behalf of the College. Lord Justice Ward presided.

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine
The Triennial Dinner of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine Old Students' Association was held last night at the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park. The guest of honour was Professor John Pattison, Dean of University College London Medical School and Vice-Provost of University College London. Dr Rosemary Radley Smith, President, received the guests.

Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent
The Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, was guest of honour at a dinner the Society held on November 18, at Boodle's, St James's Street. Mr Rupert Hambro presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.J. Clark and Miss L.B.U. Greene
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs W.M. Clark, of Hope Cove, Devon, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.H. Greene, of Highgate, London.

M P.H. Clément de l'Épine and Miss T.S. Kingston
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of M and Mme C.H. Clément de l'Épine, of Paris, and Tippy, elder daughter of Mrs William Kingston, of York and the late Mr W.H.G. Kingston.

Mr J.D.W. Freeman-Attwood and the Hon E.M. Rothschild
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Major H.W. Freeman-Attwood and of Mrs Elizabeth Mostyn-Owen, and Emmy, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Rothschild.

Mr R.E.K. Golding and Miss C.E. Newbery
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.H. Golding, of Newport, Gwent, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F.G. Newbery, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.E. Phillips and Miss J.A.L. Webb
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Phillips, and Jane, daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Webb, both of Bentworth, Hampshire.

Mr N.C.H. Purves and Miss M.J. Tosh
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs James Purves, of Dunmow, Essex, and Melanie, daughter of Mr Victor Tosh and Mrs Geoffrey Hughf, of Skelton, Cleveland.

Mr J. Connolly and Miss M. Devine
The engagement is announced between John, third son of the late Mr Peter Connolly and of Mrs Peter Connolly, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Maria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Devine, of Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA.

Mr C.G. Hamilton Stubber and Mrs M. Day
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Lieutenant Colonel J. Hamilton Stubber and of Mrs J. Hamilton Stubber, of Aughentaine, Co Tyrone, and Maxine, daughter of Mr J.R. Gillard and of Mrs V. Hepenstall, of Tauranga, New Zealand.

Mr R.D. Sanday and Miss K.M. Hutton
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs John Sanday, of Cusgarne, Cornwall and Kathmandu, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hutton, of Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr A.G. Smith and Miss V.J. Wilkinson
The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Basil Smith, of Hove, Sussex, and Victoria, elder daughter of Dr David and Dr Hazel Wilkinson, of Husthwaite, York.

Mr C.R. Wilmot-Sitwell and Miss C.M. Woodforde
The engagement is announced between Christopher, second son of Mr and Mrs P.S. Wilmot-Sitwell, of Dummer, Hampshire, and Catherine, elder daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J.E.F. Woodforde.

Latest wills

Isabel Gwladys **Mynssen-Pressburg**, of London SW5, left estate valued at £3,120,344 net.
She left £50,000 each to the RSPCA, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the Zoological Society of London, Greenpeace Environmental Trust, Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Friends of the Earth Trust, Marie Curie Cancer Care, the PDSA, the RSPCA-Putney Animal Hospital, and the Mayhew Home; and £8,500 each to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Nuffield Nursing Home Trust and Oxfam.

Joan Foster **Clark**, of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,832,321 net.
She left £1,000 to St Peter's Church, Boughton Monchelsea; and shares in her estate to the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, the RNLI, Help the Aged, Age Concern, NSPCC, RSPCA, RNIB, the Salvation Army, Oxfam, RNID, and the Women's Aid Federation England Educational and Relief Fund.

Alexander Morton **Carter**, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,494,340 net.

Cynthia Mary **Black**, of Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,012,498 net.

Henry Bertram **Chrimes**, of Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £1,087,687 net.

Enid Aimee **Gore**, of Horton, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, left estate valued at £1,201,242 net.

Agnes MacFarlane **McNab**, of Woodland Heights, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,157,390 net.

Sybil Joan **Robinson**, of Felsted, Essex, left estate valued at £1,387,772 net.

Muriel Edith **Rudrum**, of Frensham, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £999,291 net.
She left £500 to the Home of Rest for Horses, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Katrina Ruth **Ramsey**, company director, of Theydon Mount, Epping, Essex, left estate valued at £1,867,950 net.
She left £2,500 to St Mary's church, Stapleford-Tawney, Romford, and to St Michael's church, Theydon Mount, Essex.

Francis Leslie **Shergold**, of Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,344,458 net.

Eulalie Evan **Spicer**, of London SW1, left estate valued at £1,272,210 net.

Dorothy **Stephenson**, of Market Weighton, York, left estate valued at £808,491 net.

Christopher Rawdon **Willis**, of Kingskerswell, Devon, left estate valued at £1,042,643 net.

Thomas **Wilson**, retired oestopath, of London W2, left estate valued at £968,817 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Chatterton, the "boy poet", Bristol, 1752; John Wall Callcott, composer, Kensington, 1766; Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada 1896-1911, St-Lin, Quebec, 1841; Selma Lagerlof, novelist, Nobel laureate 1909, Marbacka, Sweden, 1858; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, Marshfield, Missouri, 1889.

DEATHS: Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor 1587-91, London, 1591; Caroline of Ansbach, consort of King George II, London, 1737; Abraham Tucker, writer, Dorking, Surrey, 1774; John Williams, missionary, murdered by cannibals, Eromanga, 1839; Anton Rubinstein, pianist and composer, Peterhof, Russia, 1894; Count Leo Tolstoy, writer, 1910; Alexandra, Queen Consort of King Edward VII, Sandringham, 1925; Augustine Birrell, politician and writer, London, 1933; John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Earl Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, Kensington, 1935; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, Madrid, 1975.

Simón Bolívar declared Venezuela independent from Spain, 1818.

Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce formed Rolls-Royce, 1906.

The Nuremberg War Crimes trial of Nazis began, 1945.

Snowdonia was declared a National Park, 1951.

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BIRTHS

BOYD MAUNSELL - On November 2nd, to Catherine (née Pain) and Michael, a son, George Bishop Wray.

CORNISH - On 7th November at John and Lizzies (Hospital), to Luci de Nordwall Cornish and Roland Cornish, a son Theodore.

CRAGGS - On November 17th, to Emma (née Rowan Hamilton) and Marcus, a daughter, Isla Violet.

DEN BRINKER-DARBY - On November 3rd, to Melanie (née den Brinker) and Greg, a son, Hugo Charles Gregory, a brother for Cecily.

DOUGLAS-HAMILTON - On Sunday November 16th, to Emma (née Warlow) and James, a son, Charles Cameron.

GRAY - On November 13th 1997, to Pamela (née Kelly) and Sandy, a daughter, Lucinda Katharine, a sister for Henry.

LOWEN - On 26th October 1997 in New York City, to Carey (née Barclay) and Ted, a daughter, Katherine Whitney.

MANN - On Sunday 16th November 1997, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Amanda and Simon, a daughter Lilly Margaret, a sister for Peter, Jack, Sophie and Freddy.

DEATHS

ADAM - Walter Hugh Claude passed away peacefully at Chaldon Rise Nursing Home, Merstham, Surrey on Saturday 15th November aged 67 years. Beloved son of Phyllis Joan Lankester (died 1972) and cousin to Charles Nesbitt-Larking (died 1980) and his children Paul, Frances, Nicholas, Miriam and Caroline. His gentle ways will be greatly missed by all his cousins, Marjorie, David, Sue, Martin and John and the rest of their families. Funeral Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Crawley at 11am on Saturday 22nd November. Flowers welcome.

ARGLES - On 19th November at The Red House, Yelverton, Devon, Captain Christopher Argles R.N. aged 88 years, beloved husband of the late Helen, father of Simon and Janet, grandfather and great-grandfather. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's, Buckland Monachorum, Devon, on Friday 28th November at 11.30 am. No flowers but donations if so desired for RNLI. to Morris Bros., 1 Drake Road, Tavistock, tel: (01822) 612023.

BALLS - Sheila Muriel (née Chiesman), peacefully at home on November 16th, 1997 after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of Derek and adored mother of Christine, Richard, Cathy and Rosie and her eight grandchildren. Private cremation followed by a celebration of her life at St Mary's Church, High Road, Loughton at 12 o'clock on Tuesday 25th November. Family flowers only please but donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

BEEDLE - Hilda Mary peacefully at home on November 16th aged 81. Beloved wife of Nicholas and mother of Christine and Kenneth. Much loved mother-in-law of Susie, grandmother to Alexandra, Nicholas, Georgina and James, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt. Requiem Mass 10 am St Edmund's Church, Village Way, Beckenham, November 25th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, 238 High Street, Beckenham, tel: (0181) 650-0304.

CLAXTON - Penelope Helen. Died in hospital on 16th November 1997. Funeral on Tuesday 25th November 1997 at Mortlake Crematorium at 12 noon. No flowers - but donations if desired to Hammersmith Hospital Cancer Fund. Any enquiries to Barnes & Sons, tel: (0181) 743-4312.

COOMBS - On 16th November in her 74th year, Barbara, dear sister of Peter and Elizabeth, much loved aunt and friend of many.

COOPER - David de Horne, on November 18th, 1997. Beloved husband of Joan, loving father of Philippa, Katrina, Caroline and James and grandfather of Joshua, Gabriella, Nicholas and Michael. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted on Friday November 21st at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Funeral Directors (01442) 864548.

ELLIS - Barbara Pauline (née Hasseldine) wife for 63 happy years of Humphry and mother of Patrick and Sue, peacefully in her sleep in her 89th year. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Kingston St Mary, Taunton at 2.15 pm on Tuesday November 25th, followed by private committal at Taunton Crematorium at 3.30 pm. Flowers, or donations to the RNLI. if wished, may be sent to Leonard E. Smith Funeral Directors, 1 Haydon Road, Taunton, tel: (01823) 272122.

FAIRER-SMITH - John, died peacefully on Tuesday 18th November following a short but courageous fight against illness. A man for all seasons, he touched the lives of so many with his warmth, friendship and generosity. His indomitable spirit will never be forgotten. Greatly loved and sadly missed by Gwen, Robert, Vanessa and all members of his extended family. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

FOWLER - George Eric, DFC, M.A. (Cantab). Born 22nd June 1911, died 15th November 1997. Beloved husband of Dorothy, much loved father of Timothy, Amanda, Topsy and step-daughter Jane. Cremation on Monday, 24th November 1997 at 12 noon at Cheltenham Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished to The Samaritans c/o the funeral directors: Philip Ford, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud. (Tel. 01453-763592).

GARDNER - Diana Jeanne Stanley died 17th November. Much loved and sadly missed by her brother Paul and his wife Pauline and nieces Judith and Claire and nephews Richard and Phillip. Cremation at 10.30 am, 26th November, The West London Crematorium at Kensal Green. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to the Woodland Trust, Grantham or P.D.S.A. Funeral Directors J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W2 4UL (Tel: 0171-229 3810).

GROOM - Daphne peacefully on November 19th in Norwich, much loved wife of the late John Richard, dearly loved mother of Richard and Celia, proud grandmother to Tom, Matthew, Alice, Timothy, Lucy and Nicholas. Funeral Directors: John Gedge & Sons, Garden Road, Blofield, Norwich, tel: (01603) 712276.

HALL - Richard Seymour, aged 72, author and journalist. Died suddenly in hospital on Friday 14th November. Beloved husband of Carol (Cattley), father of Robin, Nick, Simon, Crispin and Jeremy. Funeral at St Mary's, Upton, Oxfordshire, 2.30, Friday 21st November. A memorial service will be held at noon at St. Bride's, Fleet Street on Wednesday, 14th January, 1998.

HEALY/SMYTHE - Irene, late principal of the School of Dancing, Rickmansworth. Suddenly and peacefully at home on 15th November, aged 91. Will be greatly missed by Michael and Regina (Riviera), Diana, Peter, Jayne, Louise and families (Bermuda), Alison and Clive (Woking), Andrew and Pammie and children (Southampton). Family funeral Monday 24th November. No flowers. Enquiries: (0181) 883-2429.

HENDERSON - Suddenly on Saturday 15th November 1997 William Strathern, loved and loving husband of Grace, devoted father of Sara and David. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Rhu and Shandon Parish Church on Friday 21st November at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but donations welcome for Rhu and Shandon Parish Church.

KING-EVANS - Emily Lily Givenchy without suffering on 16th November; a beloved mother and grandmother. All enquiries to Heritage & Sons, Winslow. Tel: 01296 713341.

LANG-ANDERSON - Margaret Rachel on November 15th 1997, wife of the late Brigadier W.G. Lang-Anderson OBE and mother of Penelope and the late Robert. Private family cremation. All enquiries to T.H. Sanders, 35 Barnes High Street, London SW13, tel: (0181) 876-6255.

McEWEN - Heather (née Maclean formerly Fabry) died 17th November, beloved wife of Donald, mother of Caroline and grandmother of Simon, Jamie and Patrick. Cremation on 28th November at 12 noon at Guildford Crematorium and afterwards at The Manor Inn, Godalming.

MIDDLETON - Mary Margaret (Peggy, née Walkey) on 19th November 1997, wife of the late Major George Middleton, beloved mother of Primrose and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at Medway Crematorium, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham on Thursday 27th November at 2.40 pm. "With Christ which is far better".

ODDY - Dr. Richard Oddy of Mill Slack, Crook, Kendal died suddenly on 17th November, 1997. He will be sadly missed by Margaret and all of his family who loved him dearly. A celebration of his life will be held at 12.30 pm on Saturday, 22nd November in St Catherine's Church, Crook. Instead of flowers, contributions may be made to UNICEF or to the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries and donations to Hayes & Parkinson Ltd., Captain French Lane, Kendal - Tel: 01539 720105.

OLLIVER - Richard Brian on November 17th in Boulogne. Loved and sadly missed by his children John and Louise. Private cremation. Donations may be sent to Amnesty International.

PEEL - On 17th November 1997, Mary (née Bodenham), beloved wife of the late Archie Peel and devoted mother of Angela, Peter, Judy and Nick. Much loved by her children, their spouses, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Requiem Mass at St Teresa's, Warwick Road, Beaconsfield on Tuesday, 25th November 1997 at 3 pm. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired to the St Vincent de Paul Society (cheques to S.V.P. St Teresa's) - Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 2PL.

RUSHMERE - Fred fell asleep at home on November 18th 1997, aged 83. Company Director of Russell Bros. Balham. Beloved husband of Gladys, loving father of Mary, devoted grandad to Andrew and Neil, you will always be longed for. Funeral to take place at Aldershot Crematorium on November 27th 1997 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu made payable to The McMillan Nurses Appeal and forwarded to Co-operative Funeral Directors, 287 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hants. Tel: (01252) 623098.

SMYTHE - Irene. See Healy, above.

STEPHENSON - Robert Ross Stephenson DFC, RAF retd, November 17th 1997. Beloved of Paula and much loved by Malcolm and Susie and his family and friends. Funeral private. No flowers please. Donations to RAF Benevolent Fund.

WILSON - At St Mary's Nursing Home, Brailsford, Derby, on Saturday 15th November 1997, Monsignor Canon Humphrey Wilson PhD. Prot. Ap., aged 103 years. Funeral to take place in St Mary's, Bridgegate, Derby. Reception of the body Tuesday 25th November, 7 pm. Funeral Mass Wednesday 26th November at 11.30 am, (not 11 am as previously stated) followed by burial in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby. Requiescat in Pace.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FRINK - Jean Kathleen. There will be a private family cremation followed by a Memorial Service at The Roman Catholic Church, Blandford, Dorset, on Tuesday November 25th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Peter Jackson Funeral Services, Mons, High Street, Henstridge, Somerset BA8 0RB, tel: (01963) 362570.

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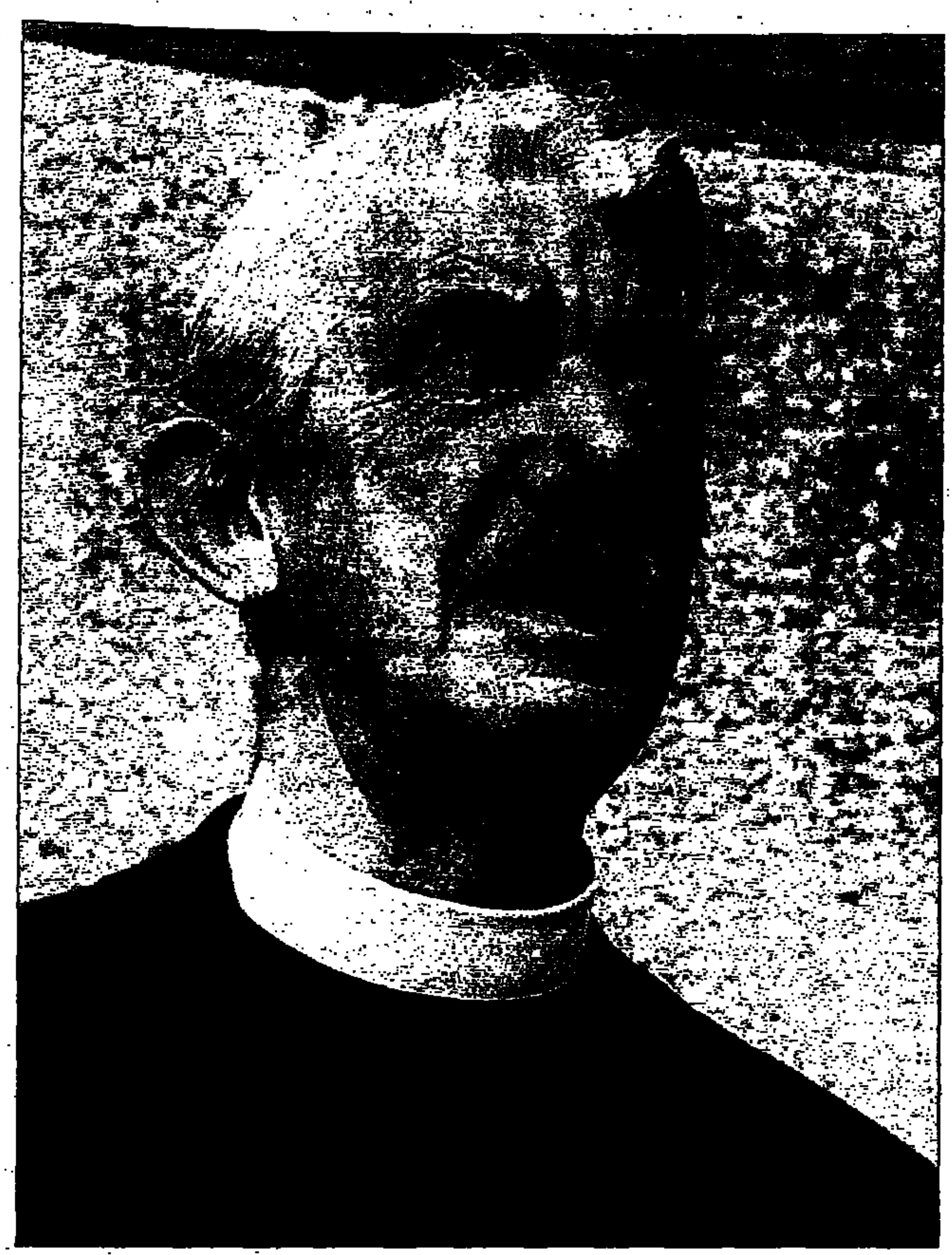
OBITUARIES

THE REV EDWARD ROGERS

The Rev Edward Rogers, Methodist minister and former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council; died on October 27 aged 88. He was born on January 4, 1909.



In a ministry that spanned 65 years Edward Rogers served the Methodist Church in the East London Mission, rural Derbyshire, the Midlands and on the northwest coast. He was for many years one of the principal spokesmen of Methodism on social questions, serving from 1950 to 1975 as a distinguished secretary of the Christian Citizenship Department (subsequently the Division of Social Responsibility), which is specially charged with guiding church thinking on moral aspects of contemporary affairs.

He also represented the Methodist Church for more than 30 years as a member of the British Council of Churches. He was the most senior former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, and was a past president of the Methodist Conference, having for his year of office had as his vice-president his contemporary George Thomas, later Viscount Tonypandy, who died five weeks before him.

Edward Rogers was born at Fleetwood, Lancashire, the son of a trawler master. His mother died when he was six and his father, who captained a minesweeper during the First World War, was killed in action. He was brought up by his grandmother, a devout Methodist, who made considerable sacrifices to send him to Baines's Poulton-le-Fylde Grammar School and later to Manchester University, where he read economics and politics and took a master's degree.

He considered a career as a professional economist, but was repelled by the materialistic aridity of much economic thinking and decided instead to study at Hartley Victoria College, Manchester, where he trained for the Methodist ministry. Although he had been brought up within the Primitive Methodist Church, his entry into the ministry coincided with the Methodist Union of 1932, so that when he eventually became president of the Methodist Conference, he was able to claim that he was the first man to do so who had spent the whole of his ministry within the united Church.

His first appointment was in Canning Town, East London, and during the years of industrial depression he had an opportunity of studying poverty at first hand. This helped to mould his early interest in economic questions, and though he was never a sentimentalist, he was stirred by the need for more intelligent and practical understanding of the factors which made such hardship possible.

After two years in Bakewell, Derbyshire, he went in 1939 to Sutton Park, Birmingham, where despite wartime difficulties he gained his reputation as a thoughtful and provocative preacher and skilled administrator. In 1947 he was appointed to Southport, Lancashire, and by this time his facility in debate and his knowledge of politics and economics — matters which are never far from the thoughts of a modern Methodist Conference — had marked him out as a Conference figure of great potential.

In 1950, when the sudden death of the Rev Noel Hutchcroft created a vacancy in the secretariat of the Christian Citizenship Department, it seemed almost inevitable that Rogers should be selected to fill it. The Christian Citizenship Department of the Methodist Church was the successor of the Temperance and Social Welfare Department which the Rev Henry Carter made into a formidable instrument in the early years of the century. Formed primarily to support the Methodist dislike of intemperance, it was turned by Carter into a machine to foster practical thinking and to create a social concern far wider than a preoccupation with the evils of alcohol.

With this wider aim Rogers had keen sympathy. Both in co-operation with the Rev E. C. Urwin, whom he was to succeed as senior secretary in 1953, and then in a most creative partnership with Kenneth Greet for many years, he insisted on a careful collection of facts, and impressed the Church with his view that mere uninformed indignation was not a constructive policy.

His task was made no easier by more enthusiastic zealots inside the Church, but though not temporising, he insisted on the need for tolerance. With the Church sharply divided on such questions as pacifism, he was a master of drafting resolutions and pronouncements that could find a compromise between conflicting opinions.

A man of few words in a talkative denomination, he was renowned for his silences. He was, however, a master of debate, and a lucid and persuasive speaker. He was slight in stature, with a deadpan expression which many comedians would have envied. This enabled him to deal with hostile questions with devastating effect. His gift of phrase was remarkable, and he had sometimes a seeming delight in shocking his audience. No man had ever before in a Methodist Conference opened discussion on moral issues by talking of "pimps, pansies and prostitutes", as he did on one occasion.

He became president of the Methodist Conference in 1960, being one of the youngest holders of the office in recent times. His analyses of social problems brought him a reputation well beyond his own Church and he was equally esteemed at international conferences.

He was also a member of several advisory committees set up both by the Government and by church bodies. From 1953 to 1975 he led the Methodist Relief and Development Fund and from 1960 to 1964 was chairman of the Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Services of the British Council of Churches.

He was Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council in 1966, being chairman of its executive from 1974 to 1980, and also served as a vice-president of the British Council of Churches; he continued to give notable service in the counsels of both bodies for many years.

His interest in a wide range of social questions, from immigration and race relations to gambling and animal welfare, is reflected in his numerous publications, which included a timely *Commentary on Communism* (1951); *Law, Morality and Gospel* (1969); and *Changing Humanity: Genetic Engineering* (1989). From 1949 onwards he was an editorial director of the *Methodist Recorder*, for which he compiled a regular *Conference Notebook*. An avid reader, he had a passion for science fiction.

Edward Rogers was twice married. His first wife, Edith Mary Sutton, whom he had married in 1937, predeceased him. In 1979 he married Lucy Evelyn Howlett, who survives him.

JOHN CARSWELL

John Carswell, CB, civil servant, historian and former Secretary of the British Academy, died on November 12 aged 79. He was born on May 30, 1918.

JOHN CARSWELL led an extraordinary double life. By day he was a senior civil servant, deeply involved in the expansion of Britain's universities in the 1960s and 1970s. But at night he became a serious historian, specialising in the late 17th and 18th centuries. For years his family in Hampstead was lulled to sleep by the rattle of his typewriter into the small hours.

The historians Hugh Trevor-Roper (now Lord Dacre) and A. L. Rowse were among those who praised his work — including such books as *The Descent on England* (about the 1688 Glorious Revolution) and *The South Sea Bubble*. Rowse, reviewing the latter when it first appeared in 1960, described it as "the best book on the subject".

On retiring from Whitehall at the age of 60, Carswell was appointed secretary of the British Academy and ran the staff side of that august body for five years. He oversaw its move from Piccadilly to its recent headquarters in Regent's Park and became a close friend of the then president Sir Isaiah Berlin. (The two men were to die within a few days of each other.)

John Patrick Carswell came from an impressively literary background. Born in Hampstead, he was the son of a barrister and author — who was to perish in the Second World War when he stepped under a bus in the London black-out.

His mother Catherine Carswell was, however, the more distinguished. A prominent member of the literary circle of her day she was a close friend of John Buchan and, slightly incongruously, of D.H. Lawrence as well. Her own output included two novels and a warts-and-all biography of Robert Burns which caused a rumpus in 1930. Her revelations of the poet's love life prompted one outraged Scot to send her a bullet.

Carswell went from Merchant Taylors' School to St John's College, Oxford, to read history, graduating just before the Second World War. Commissioned into the South Lancashire Regiment, he served from 1940 until 1946, mainly in staff jobs in India.

Demobilised as a major, he then joined the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance at a time when the welfare state was being created. He was seconded for a year in the mid-1950s to act as joint secretary to the Phillips Committee on the Economic and Financial Problems of Provision for Old Age. This was followed by two years as principal private secretary to the then Minister of Pensions, John Boyd-Carpenter.

In 1961 Carswell left for the Treasury, where he was chiefly concerned with the financial ramifications of the Robbins Committee on Higher Education and university expansion. Apart from a brief spell at the Ministry of Health, higher education was to preoccupy him thereafter.

He moved to the Department of Education and Science for a number of years, then in 1974 was made secretary of the University Grants Committee (UGC). He held this post until his retirement as a deputy under-secretary, then joined the British Academy in 1978. He had been appointed CB in 1977.

The academy, to which he was devoted, had already good reason to feel indebted to him. While at the UGC, Carswell had been instrumental in securing a number of research grants for it, thus enabling a significant expansion of its activities.

He remained a frequent and valued contributor to such journals as the *TLS* and *History Today*. But his dozen or so books also included one on government and the universities, another on the Civil Service and one entitled *The Saving of Kenwood and the Northern Heights*.

The last of these reflected his passionate concern for the conservation of Hampstead. He served for a time as chairman of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society in succession to Peggy Jay. Carswell was also a life member of the Institute of Historical Research, and had been a history research fellow at University College London since 1983.

Despite his depth of scholarship, Carswell was a sociable family man, with a wide circle of friends and an appetite for the theatre and extensive travel. An enthusiastic member of the Garrick, he lunched there at least once a week.

Every year he would join Sir Peter Strawson, former Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Oxford and a friend from university days, for a five-day walking tour.

He and Strawson also shared a passion for 18th and early-19th-century war games. They could be seen happily scrambling about Carswell's garden from time to time, deploying regiments of toy soldiers or firing one-inch nails at them from toy cannon.

He married his wife Ianthe in 1944. A childhood friend from Hampstead, she had gone out to India herself while working for the Ministry of Information, and they were married in Delhi. John Carswell, who had suffered increasingly from osteoporosis in the last year or two, is survived by her and their two daughters.

JOHN PARKMAN

John Parkman, MBE, head of the Wales Regional Crime Squad, died on October 31 aged 81. He was born on September 28, 1916.

JOHN PARKMAN was the longest-serving detective in Wales, climbing through the ranks from a "beat bobby" in Tiger Bay, Cardiff, to assistant chief constable and head of the Wales Regional Crime Squad.

He spent most of his 33 years service in the CID, and was acknowledged as one of the sharpest brains in the police forces in Britain. He helped to send murderers to the gallows and put gangsters behind bars, but it was the coal tip disaster at Aberfan that gave him his greatest challenge.

As head of the Regional Crime Squad he was in charge of the team of detectives who had the heart-rending job of identifying the bodies of the 116 children and 28 adults who were buried beneath an avalanche of shale on October 21, 1966. He showed great compassion to the grieving parents, but the nightmare of those days stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Three years after Aberfan, William John Parkman was in charge of security at Caernarfon Castle for the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. A boy had recently lost his legs in a bombing in the area, so the threat of a sniper's bullet or terrorist bomb was a real possibility, as Welsh extremists protested against the Investiture.

The security success at Caernarfon added to the fears of chief constables in Britain that the regional crime squads were gaining too much power. A political decision was taken to break up the squads, and the regional co-ordinators — including Parkman — were given the alternatives of taking a drop in rank or leaving the force.

Parkman opted out of the job he loved, bringing to an end more than three decades of service, which had started in 1937 when he joined the former Cardiff City Police Force, where his mother, Annie Parkman, was keeper and cleaner of the cells. After four years in uniform, Constable Parkman was transferred to the CID and spent a year as a detective before joining the Royal Air Force.

He won his pilot's wings, and as a flying officer served as an instructor in South Africa, Rhodesia, the Middle East and Italy. On leaving the Air Force he became a detective, busting the gangs which were springing up in Cardiff in the postwar years.

As a chief inspector in 1962, he pioneered a move which was a forerunner of the regional crime squads in which he was to play a major role. He brought together detectives from his own force, Newport, Monmouthshire and Glamorgan to fight crime on a united front. It was the murder of a woman on the border between Cardiff and Glamorgan that led to this. Ordnance survey maps were brought out to decide which of the two neighbouring forces should conduct the investigation. Valuable time was wasted and the killer was never caught.

The principle of regional and national policing remained with Parkman for the rest of his life. Earlier this year he wrote to *The Times* spelling out the advantages of shared intelligence and united efforts to beat drug barons, terrorism and major criminals.

When the question of capital punishment was being debated in the 1960s, John Parkman drove from Cardiff to Nottingham to question a suspect in the fatal shooting of a man on the doorstep of a house in Cardiff. He arrested Edgar Valentine Black, who admitted shooting the victim, who had had an affair with Black's wife.

As they drove back to South Wales, Black asked if he could have a pint. Parkman broke all the rules. He took the handcuffs off the prisoner and they had two pints of beer in a crowded bar before continuing the journey. Three months later Black was sentenced to death, only to be reprieved two days before the execution day. He died in prison last year.

John Parkman also made a name for himself as a swimmer. He was captain of the Welsh waterpolo team, played for the British Police team and was an Olympic trialist. He also held the record for the Taff Swim in Cardiff.

He was appointed MBE in 1971 and is survived by his wife, Valmai, a son and a daughter.

ON THIS DAY

November 20, 1934

Widespread was the word; fog on the Bristol-Gloucester road was "very thick", at King's Lynn visibility was ten yards, and seven on the Kendal-Carlisle road.

WIDESPREAD FOG

CONFUSION ON THE ROADS

THICK fog enveloped the greater part of Southern England in the course of Sunday night, and extended on the East Coast as far north as Yorkshire. In the South-East it proved persistent in many places. On the South Coast fog was either absent or was confined to the early morning or the evening, and in many places the day was sunny and mild. There was nothing last night to suggest a rapid general dispersion of the fog to-day, and it is not improbable that some districts on the South Coast that had none yesterday may experience it to-day. In the Midlands the tendency should as a rule be for clearer weather, due to winds from between south-west and west.

According to the Automobile Association, which sent out special observers on Sunday night, pedestrian crossings and Belisha beacons proved practically useless in the fog. The chief complaints were that the beacons could not be seen and that pedestrians did not care to risk using uncontrolled crossings. In addition, motorists disregarded the silence order after 11.30 pm and used their horns. An official of the association said:-

The position was that in the earlier part of the evening, with visibility six yards in North London and Kent, the Belisha beacons could not be seen, nor could the automatic traffic lights be seen. This was bad enough, but at 11.30 pm, when the sounding of horns is prohibited, the position became almost intolerable. Motorists did the only thing they could do in the circumstances — they disregarded the silence order. Although traffic had perforce to travel at a maximum of 10 miles an hour, pedestrians did not use the uncontrolled crossings. Where a policeman was controlling traffic, motorists did get some indication, but the position was generally chaotic. This shows that beacons, which in many cases in normal conditions are difficult to see, are more than valueless in fog unless strongly illuminated. The white studs were not visible and the rear lights of cycles also could not be seen.

Still further confusion was caused by the fact that many advertising lights were much more conspicuous than either the Belisha beacons or the automatic signals, with the result that the motorist, seeing some sort of light, drove towards it and completely lost his bearings. Some control of advertising lights which can be confused with traffic lights is imperative.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[illegible]

THE COLONELS Commandant Royal Tank Regiment send their greetings and best wishes to all Officers and other ranks, serving and retired on the eightieth anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. Fear Naught.

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division Companies Court [illegible]

IN THE COURT OF SESSION [illegible]

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
Company number: 2798944. Name of Company: LONDON AND NORFOLK METAL TRADING LTD. Nature of Business: International metal trader. Type of Liquidation: Creditors. Address of Registered Office: Docklands Business Centre, Suite 3a, Tiller Road, London E14 8PX. Liquidator's Name CHRISTOPHER NORMAN and Address: Wytherston Farm, Wytherston, Powerstock, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3TQ. Office Holder Number: 7920. Date of appointment: 7 November 1997. By whom Appointed: Members and Creditors.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE TABLEX GROUP PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 5th November 1997 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company by £13,180,832 and the reduction of the capital of the above named company from £11,500,000 to £230,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 10th November 1997.
Dated this 20th November 1997.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES TO SEND IN CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 27 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925
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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is given that all creditors, members and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the fund constituted under the Maxwell Communication Pension Plan (the "Plan") (commonly known as the Maxwell Staff Scheme) by a definitive trust deed dated 17 November 1988 are requested to send particulars in writing to The Law Debenture Trust Corporation plc (as trustee of the Plan) on or before 30th January 1998. After that date the trustee may proceed to distribute the assets of the Plan among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which they have notice and shall not be liable for the assets to the Plan or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they have not had notice.
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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 1997

NEWS

Duke praises his wife's tolerance

■ The Duke of Edinburgh paid warm tribute to his wife's tolerance in an unusually personal speech marking the couple's golden wedding anniversary.

With the Queen at his side he also expressed his belief that a partnership in marriage could achieve much more than a single individual. "The main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient," he told 800 guests at a lunch at Guildhall in the City .... **Pages 1, 4, 5, 23**

Instant millionaires

■ The American stockbroker Merrill Lynch paid £3.1 billion *for Mercury Asset Management*, the City pension fund manager. Hugh Stevenson, Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman made at least £10 million each and share options *turned up* to 300 *of the staff into* millionaires .... **Pages 1, 27**

Speed reading

Half of the children attending the Government's first literacy summer schools made six months' progress in three weeks, according to an evaluation of the project .... **Page 1**

Labour admission

Peter Mandelson admitted that the Government had behaved "out of character" over the Formula One affair and risked damaging its bond of trust with the British people .... **Page 2**

Winchman lost

A search in 70-mile-an-hour gales *and heavy seas continued off* Shetland after a helicopter winchman was lost while rescuing 10 crewmen from a wrecked cargo ship .... **Page 3**

Children in care

Children in care continue to face appalling sexual and physical abuse from staff, foster parents *and peers despite a succession of* government inquiries .... **Page 9**

Glitter allegation

Photographs of children have been seized by police investigating claims that the veteran pop star Gary Glitter possessed child pornography .... **Page 11**

Dying baby ruling

A baby girl suffering from a fatal degenerative disease should be allowed to die against the wishes of her Orthodox Jewish parents, the High Court ruled .... **Page 12**

Jowell summoned

Tessa Jowell *has been summoned* to a special Commons hearing after failing to satisfy a committee over the reasons behind Formula One's exemption from the tobacco sponsorship ban .... **Page 13**

Clothing fraud raids

Hundreds of police launched dawn raids in the Sentier clothing district of Paris in an operation to break up a £100 million fraud ring within the French "ready-to-wear" industry .... **Page 14**

Indian car bomb

A car bomb killed at least 23 *people in the southern Indian* city of Hyderabad. It was probably intended for Paritali Ravi, a politician and film producer who was at film studio party .... **Page 16**

Anti-Castro tricks

The Pentagon has *released* classified documents about dirty tricks offered to President Kennedy as *ways of sabotaging President* Castro of Cuba .... **Page 17**

Egyptian tours off

Japan's top travel agency cancelled tours to Egypt until at least the new year in the aftermath of the Luxor massacre. Other countries may follow suit .... **Page 18**

Iraq's Dr Germ

The mastermind behind Iraq's biological weapons programme is Dr Rihab Taha, nicknamed "Dr Germ" by the inspectors before their departure .... **Page 19**

Not tunight, Josephine

■ A love letter from Napoleon to Josephine points up what remains a minefield in the French language. He complains to his bride of a few weeks: "You call me *vous*. How could you have written a letter like that? It is so cold." The notoriously unfaithful Josephine may have avoided the more intimate *tu* to keep the young soldier's *amour* on the boil .... **Pages 18, 40**

DOUG MARKE/PAGE ONE

A Harrier GR7 being prepared at RAF Wittering in Cambridge to join *HMS Invincible* for possible Gulf deployment. Page 19

BUSINESS

Mercury: Merrill Lynch, the American financial group, is paying £3.1 billion for Mercury Asset Management to create the world's third largest fund manager .... **Page 27**

Safeway: Shares in the supermarkets group dived from 394p to 330p after a warning on profits and prospects .... **Page 27**

Ferry clearance: P&O's plans to merge its cross-Channel operations with Stena were provisionally cleared by British and European Union competition authorities .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 15.3 points to close at 4830.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 103.8 to 104.0 after a fall from $1.6942 to $1.6902 but a rise from DM2.9223 to DM2.9288 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Rugby union: Jonah Lomu has been recalled to the New Zealand team to play England. It will be his first international since his kidney complaint was diagnosed .... **Page 52**

Football: Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Gerry Francis, the manager, said their farewells amid a welter of mutual praise. As divorces go, it could not have been more amicable .... **Page 52**

Golf: Fourteen teams will contest the fifth national final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge which begins today in La Manga .... **Page 45**

Racing: A plan for funding the sport will urge the Government to switch up to £75 million a year from betting duty and allow punters to bet in pubs .... **Page 47**

Peace price: Brad Pitt thought that filming *Seven Years in Tibet* in the foothills of the Andes would ensure anonymity. He wound up under siege in a barracks .... **Page 36**

Sinister charm: Benedict Nightingale is dazzled by the energy and wit of Kander and Ebb's darkly elegant musical, *Chicago*, in its sharp, spare West End revival at the Adelphi .... **Page 38**

Trench fever: Geoff Brown reviews the week's new movies, beginning with the compassionate First World War *Regeneration*, adapted from Pat Barker's novel .... **Page 37**

Sussex storm: After a tumultuous weekend of rows Duncan Weldon, the director of the Chichester Festival Theatre, has quit: he tells Richard Morrison why .... **Page 39**

Your health: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on bed sores, irritable bowel syndrome, erotomania, amnesia and hormone replacement .... **Page 20**

Tattoo you: A designer logo tattooed on the ankle or wrist is the ultimate in chic .... **Page 21**

Wrong taste: Some Japanese worry that the decline in British tea-drinking is causing England to lose its Englishness .... **Page 21**

History lesson: Lawrence James goes to war with Napoleon; Roy Porter dissects the history of disease; Claire Bloom remembers Ingrid Bergman .... **Pages 40, 41**

Best buys: Escape to the Yorkshire Moors and Dales, roast your Christmas turkey aboard a houseboat on the Norfolk Broads or fly on a three-night Christmas shopping special in Istanbul .... **Page 44**

The killers of Luxor have managed to realise their immediate objective: to turn away tourists from the Nile Valley. *They are punishing* millions of Egyptians who live from tourism and millions of tourists for whom Egypt is the destination of their dreams — *Le Monde*

22, 47, 27, 33, 42, 46. **Bonus:** 32. Guaranteed jackpot: £15 million.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Royal Family reflects on the restoration of Windsor Castle. *Network First* (ITV, 10.40pm: regional variations). **Review:** Joe Joseph sees Inspector Morse play crossword puzzles .... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

Golden Duke

It takes two to make a marriage. It can take a hero as well as a heroine to make a golden wedding. So let us not forget the Duke behind the Throne .... **Page 23**

Odour and sanctity

Disclosure would free William Hague to make the principled case against the proposals Tony Blair is keen to promote .... **Page 23**

Russia at centre stage

President Yeltsin's Russia now demonstrates a political maturity and pragmatism that are the most striking testaments to the democratic revolution that swept away the Soviet Union .... **Page 23**

MICHAEL KELLY

Saddam's ability to agitate America rests on his understanding that *it has developed a phobia of military death* .... **Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

There was a simplicity about Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education. Now it is beginning to degenerate into confusion, with worrying signs of bureaucracy and downright unfairness .... **Page 22**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The gold value of a gold sovereign now has much the same purchasing power as it would have had the year Cromwell cut off the head of Charles I .... **Page 22**

PETER RIDDELL

Despite the Government's belief that Britain will not be ready for some time to join EMU, we already have a more flexible labour market than elsewhere in Europe and already fulfill most of the employment guidelines .... **Page 13**

The Rev Edward Rogers, Method*ist minister*; **John Parkman**, policeman; **John Carswell**, civil servant and historian .... **Page 25**

Ferries and asylum seekers: Oxbridge subsidy; bike and train travel; climate change .... **Page**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

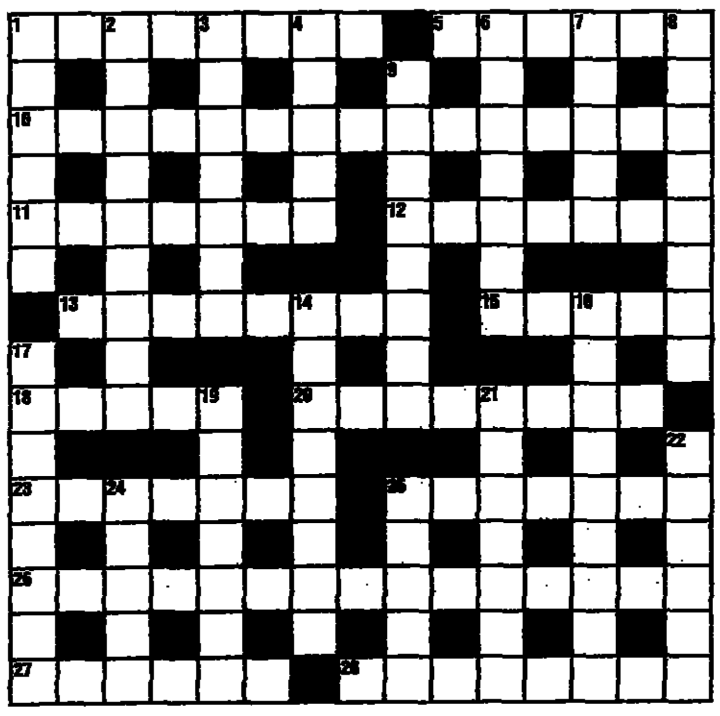
■ MEDIA

Harder than concrete: the award-winning editor Bridget Rowe, queen of the tabloids, explains her style

■ EDUCATION

Should you move house to get the best school for your children?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,642



ACROSS

1 Keen on one specially chosen instrument (4,4).
5 Lecture pompously about right vegetable (6).
10 *In which a dramatic difference may be made by move of a comma* (9,6).
11 He raises point with clergyman (7).
12 Need to start with uranium, uncontaminated, for such weapons (7).
13 Literal race on very fast road (8).
15 Accommodation for some retreating from Moscow? (5).
18 From one city, travel south to another (5).
20 Alcoholic mixture that puts an end to male (8).
23 She was his bird (7).
25 One who tries to get goods trains split earlier (7).
26 Masonic group that'll offer to get you home? (8,7).
27 Some advice about extremely unusual flowers (6).
28 Present prose composition in the *pub* (2,6).

DOWN

1 Rabbit punches one delivers (6).
2 *Scornful about the work done by* electrician (9).
3 With the ale being drunk, keep the last bit here? (7).
4 Point up and down (5).
6 Humourlessly disapproving of one in paid position (2-5).
7 Floral item that includes an iris from Hereford? (5).
8 Unfortunately out in test — that'll teach you (8).
9 Having the influence to get one put out (8).
14 Falling in hostile clash (8).
16 Not scolded so much about money, unlike Mr.Quiverful (9).
17 Characters based on a couple of Greek ones, mainly (8).
19 Don't accept criticism from this comic type (5-2).
21 Sentimentality in new production *of Electra* (7).
22 Start to cram synthetic fabric into drawer (6).
24 Have many questions for restaurant (5).
25 One receptacle holding a second, and another (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,641

```
BODICES LOCKOUT
O I R H E L R I
MASTERING ODIUM
B A S N A S G E
  BESIDETHEMARK
P L   I O C M E
AVERAGED CANINE
R     N S H L P
TIPPET NOBLESSE
I L C S M   L R
COUPDETHEATRE  
U M O U S H I F
LIMIT POPSINGER
A E A O U N H A
RATTLER NIGHTLY
```

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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Manchester 4.05 pm to 7.45 am
Penzance 4.32 pm to 7.45 am

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** blustery in Scotland with gales and showery rain in north-east. Elsewhere in Scotland showers will be more scattered at first but outbreaks of rain will spread from south-west in afternoon. Northern Ireland, Wales and England will also be showery with some longer spells of rain. Sunny intervals possible in south and west in afternoon.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** heavy showers or longer spells of rain. Moderate to fresh S to SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **Cent S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** showery rain at first followed by sunshine and hefty showers. Fresh SW wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **E England, NE England:** cloudy and dull with showery rain developing. Strong and gusty S to SE wind. Max 10-12C (50-54F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Cent N England, N Ireland:** cloudy with heavy showers after mainly dry start. Moderate S to SE wind. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** very windy with spells of showery rain. Strong to gale-force S to SE wind. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cloudy with periods of rain. Fresh to strong SE wind. Max 9-11C (48-52F).

☐ **Outlook:** staying changeable.

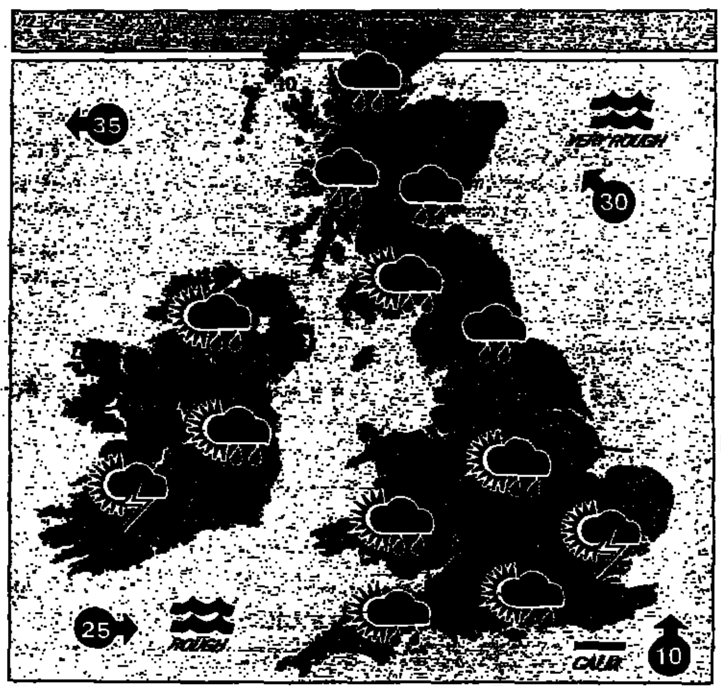
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.13	11	52	r	Kinloss	0.6	-	13	55	b
Anglesey	2.9	0.03	14	57	sh	Leeds	-	0.04	11	52	r
Aspatria	*0.2*	*0.01*	*11*	*52*	*r*	*Lerwick*	-	*0.06*	*8*	*46*	*r*
Aviemore	0.1	0.01	11	52	r	Littlehmptn	0.4	0.11	14	57	r
Birmingham	0.3	0.17	12	54	r	London	0.8	0.13	13	55	r
Bognor R	0.9	0.13	13	55	r	Lowestoft	-	0.46	10	50	r
Bristol	1.7	0.18	15	59	sh	Manchester	-	0.13	12	54	r
Buxton	-	0.34	10	50	r	Margate	1.8	0.16	13	55	r
Cardiff	3.9	0.19	14	57	b	Minehead	4.2	0.21	15	59	b
Clacton	2.6	0.13	11	52	b	Morecambe	-	0.07	13	55	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.13	13	55	r	Newcastle	0.8	0.10	12	54	r
Colwyn Bay	2.0	0.11	15	59	r	Norwich	0.1	0.24	12	54	d
Cromer	-	0.28	11	52	d	Oxford	0.4	0.14	14	57	sh
Eastbourne	*0.7*	*0.07*	*13*	*55*	*r*	*Penzance*	*X*	*0.26*	*15*	*59*	*b*
Edinburgh	1.3	0.01	13	55	c	Poole	1.1	0.21	15	59	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.10	10	50	r	Prestatyn	X	0.01	15	59	s
Exmouth	2.0	0.17	14	57	sh	Ross-o-wye	1.9	0.31	15	59	r
Falmouth	2.6	0.09	15	59	b	Shrewsbury	0.7	0.09	13	55	r
Fishguard	1.2	0.27	13	55	sh	Skegness	2.8	0.04	12	54	d
Folkestone	2.4	0.17	13	55	r	Southend	-	0.04	13	55	r
Glasgow	-	0.08	12	54	c	Southport	-	0.07	12	54	d
Guernsey	5.0	0.38	16	61	f	Southsea	1.2	0.22	15	59	r
Hastings	1.3	0.04	13	55	r	Stornoway	0.6	0.04	13	55	c
Hayling I	X	0.19	13	55	r	Swanage	0.9	0.22	15	59	sh
Herne Bay	1.6	0.06	13	55	r	Teignmouth	X	0.20	15	59	sh
Hove	-	0.03	14	57	sh	Tenby	2.7	0.32	14	57	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.07	13	55	r	Tiree	0.1	0.14	12	54	r
Isle-of-Man	0.4	0.13	14	57	sh	Torquay	2.2	0.27	15	59	b
Isle-of-Wight	-	0.23	13	56	r	West-s-mare	2.3	0.14	15	59	sh
Jersey	4.3	0.18	15	59	sh	Weymouth	1.9	0.28	14	57	sh

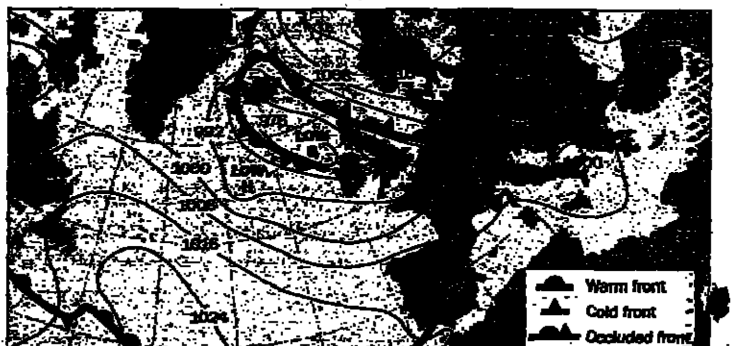
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	f	Corfu	14	57	f	Majorca	19	66	f	Rome	14	57	s
Akrotiri	19	66	f	C'phagn	5	41	c	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'isco	13	55	f
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Dublin	14	57	r	Malta	17	63	f	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	22	72	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Salzburg	4	39	c
Amst'dm	7	45	s	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	20	68	s	Santiago	26	79	s
Athens	14	57	c	Florence	14	57	s	Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	3	37	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Frankfurt	6	43	c	Milan	11	52	s	Sing'por	28	82	r
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	22	72	s	Montreal	-2	28	X	St'kholm	2	36	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	9	48	s	Moscow	-5	23	c	Strasb'rg	1	34	c
Barbados	30	86	c	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Munich	2	36	c	Sydney	22	72	f
Barcelona	18	64	c	Helsinki	1	34	s	N Delhi	21	70	f	Tangier	17	63	c
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	20	68	f	N York	5	41	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	3	37	r	Innsbrck	6	43	s	Nairobi	21	70	f	Tenerife	26	79	c
Berlin	4	39	f	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	14	57	s	Tokyo	17	63	c
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jeddah	32	90	f	Nice	15	59	s	Toronto	2	36	f
Biarritz	15	59	r	Jo'burg	18	64	s	Oslo	4	39	c	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	15	59	r	L Angels	19	66	s	Paris	11	52	f	Valencia	19	66	f
Brussels	9	48	s	L Palmas	23	73	c	Peking	7	45	s	Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Budapest	4	39	f	Le Touqt	9	48	s	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	9	48	s
Cairo	25	77	s	Lisbon	18	64	s	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	3	37	c
Cape Tn	19	66	f	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	2	36	f	Warsaw	0	32	sn
Ch'church	19	66	X	Luxembg	6	43	s	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Chicago	3	37	c	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	8	46	s	Madrid	11	52	r	Riyadh	24	75	f	Zurich	5	41	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low H will swing SE around low G with little change, while low G drifts N and fills; low F will run S then E while filling



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.15	6.7	17.41	6.7	Leith	06.22	5.0	18.42	4.9
Aberdeen	05.06	3.8	17.15	3.8	Liverpool	02.33	8.4	14.51	8.4
Avonmouth	10.38	11.4	23.06	10.8	Lowestoft	00.42	2.4	13.40	2.3
Belfast	02.42	3.1	14.56	3.4	Margate	03.18	4.4	15.50	4.4
Cardiff	10.24	10.8	22.52	10.0	Milford Haven	09.45	6.1	22.12	5.7
Devonport	09.08	5.0	21.35	4.8	Newquay	08.40	6.1	21.09	5.7
Dover	02.18	6.2	14.40	5.9	Oban	08.52	3.5	21.36	3.2
Dublin (N Wall)	03.15	3.7	15.33	3.9	Penzance	08.07	5.0	20.33	4.7
Falmouth	*08.39*	*4.8*	*21.06*	*4.4*	*Portland*	*10.05*	*1.8*	*22.39*	*1.5*
Greenock	04.02	3.2	15.58	3.6	Portsmouth	02.47	4.3	14.56	4.2
Harwich	03.01	3.7	15.29	3.7	Shoreham	02.24	5.8	14.39	5.5
Holyhead	01.51	5.0	14.06	5.1	Southampton	02.09	4.2	14.25	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	10.00	7.7	22.07	7.8	Swansea	09.44	8.4	22.12	7.9
Ilfracombe	*09.26*	*8.0*	*21.54*	*7.8*	*Tees*	*07.22*	*4.6*	*19.36*	*4.6*
King's Lynn	10.04	5.7	22.07	5.8	Walton-on-N	02.58	3.8	15.26	3.8

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 16C (61F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Belfast airport 0.79in; highest sunshine: Guernsey 5hr.

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THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft · THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 1997

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Inside one of the world's most secluded places
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SPORT
Lomu returns to face England at Old Trafford
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TELEVISION AND RADIO
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Merrill Lynch

US investment bank acquires leading British fund manager

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Merrill pays £3.1bn for MAM

Analysts hail deal as a 'brilliant coup' for Mercury

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

MERCURY Asset Management, the UK's biggest fund manager, stunned the City yesterday by announcing it had agreed to a £3.1 billion takeover by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank.

Merrill Lynch is offering £17 *per share, a premium of* almost 32 per cent on Tuesday's closing price. In return, MAM will form the core of a new business to be called *Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset* Management (MLMAM).

The all-cash deal catapults Merrill Lynch into the world's top three asset managers with £266 billion of funds, placing it behind only Fidelity and Axa, the French insurer. MAM gains much-needed access to the US market and Merrill Lynch's vast capital.

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MAM directors, who stand to make £32.4 million from the sale of their shares alone, unanimously recommended the offer to shareholders. Directors will receive tens of millions of pounds more from phantom share and option schemes that crystallise when the deal is completed.

Shares in MAM soared on *news of the deal, rising 380p to* £16.75. Other fund managers saw their shares rise steeply, with M&G up 160p to £13.35, Schroders up 140p to £18.15 and Perpetual up 240p to £24.75, as traders speculated about further consolidation in the sector.

Financial analysts hailed the deal as a "brilliant coup" *for MAM, which has been the* target for some heavy criticism in recent months because of the poor performance of its main pooled pension fund.

Hugh Stevenson, the chairman of MAM, will become non-executive chairman for a year to oversee the integration of the two businesses. Carol Galley, widely regared as the most powerful woman in the City, and Stephen Zimmerman are to be co-heads of MLMAM and sit on Merrill Lynch's executive management committee. There will be no redundancies at MAM.

Merrill Lynch is still working on an incentive scheme to lock in MAM's 1,300 employees, who between them own 3 per cent of the company's shares. Herb Allison, president and chief operating officer at the US investment bank, indicated that the schemes would reward long-term peformance and loyalty.

Mr Stevenson said: "Since 1987, Mercury has an exceptional record of providing shareholder value and, at the offer price, the total return to shareholders has exceeded their investment by over 30 times. This offer provides an excellent price for shareholders, fully reflecting the underlying value of Mercury."

ANDRE CAMARA

Herb Allison, left, with Hugh Stevenson, Michael Marks, of Merrill Lynch Europe, and David Causer, MAM's finance director, yesterday

Speculation about MAM has been unrelenting since the fund manager severed its links with SG Warburg, the merchant bank, now owned by SBC, the Swiss bank, in June 1995. Its surprise acquisition will intensify speculation about the remaining fund managers, particularly M&G, which is being stalked by Halifax. Barclays has also expressed interest in buying a fund manager.

The deal will also push up the value of UK fund managers. Merrill Lynch is paying the equivalent of 3 per cent of funds under management; the industry norm is about 2 per cent. NatWest acquired Gartmore last year for £450 million, paying a price equivalent to 1.9 per cent of funds under management.

The only dissenting voices last night came from rival fund managers who cautioned that clients may be unnerved by the change in ownership. "It is a very good deal for Mercury shareholders, but is it a good deal for their clients?" said one senior fund manager.

Others who may view the Merrill deal with some displeasure are executives who have recently left MAM for other firms, including Leonard Licht, the company's founder, who stepped down 18 months ago. John Richards, formerly head of institutional investments at MAM, left in May to join Nicola Horlick, another former Mercury executive, at Société Générale.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4830.1	(-15.3)
Yield	3.37%	
FTSE All share	2285.91	(-5.08)
Nikkei	15842.46	(-884.11)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7690.38	(+39.54)*
S&P Composite	943.36	(+5.13)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	101[illegible]*	(100[illegible])
Yield	6.04%*	(6.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	118[illegible]	(117[illegible]%)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6915*	(1.6910)
London:		
$	1.6902	(1.6941)
DM	2.9288	(2.9226)
FFr	9.8024	(9.7875)
SFr	2.3731	(2.3780)
Yen	215.14	(212.98)
£ Index	104.0	(103.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7332*	(1.7290)
FFr	5.8010*	(5.7905)
SFr	1.4040*	(1.4050)
Yen	127.00*	(126.16)
$ Index	106.3	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 126.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$19.10	($19.20)

GOLD

London close	$305.25	($305.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Utility's bill

Hyder, the Welsh water and electricity company, raised its pre-tax profits from £100.7 million to £105.4 million in the six months to the end of *September. After deduction of* a £282 million windfall tax charge, the group sufferd a £190 million loss. **Page 32**

FKI strategy

FKI, the industrial products group, expects strong cash flow and disposals to top up its coffers sufficiently to permit it to make more acquisitions. **Page 33**

Safeway shares in biggest one-day fall after warning

By Fraser Nelson

SAFEWAY shares suffered their sharpest one-day fall yesterday as the group gave warning that fierce competition from its rival supermarkets and supply problems will eliminate any profits growth this year.

The company is freezing its interim dividend after blaming the advance of J Sainsbury, image problems and stock shortages for a sharp downturn in autumn sales growth. In spite of promising to return £600 million to shareholders over the next three years, its shares plunged 16 per cent, to 330p, as analysts downgraded year-end profits forecasts by £30 *million to £420 million.*

Colin Smith, chief executive, said the first half showed 3 per cent like-for-like sales growth and underlying pre-tax profit of £230 million (£223 million). *But since October 11, this* growth has slumped to 0.2 per cent — all from inflation, with no underlying improvement. He said: "We have seen the strength of the *results coming* from our competitors, especially Sainsbury. We cannot divorce the results from what's been going on with us."

Food delivery problems are also holding back growth, he said, adding to the continuing problem of Safeway being seen as an expensive store.

After a £9.6 million interest charge from its earlier share buyback, earnings were 14.9p (14.4p) a share. The 4.4p dividend, held for the first time ever, is due February 9.

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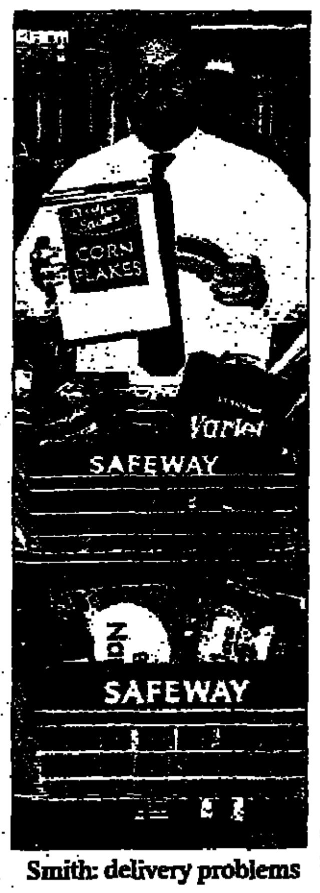


Smith: delivery problems

P&O gets backing for joint sailing with Stena Line

By Arthur Leathley and Dominic Walsh

P&O and Stena Line were given the go-ahead yesterday *to merge cross-Channel ferry* services but will have to cap passenger fares if rival companies are forced off the route.

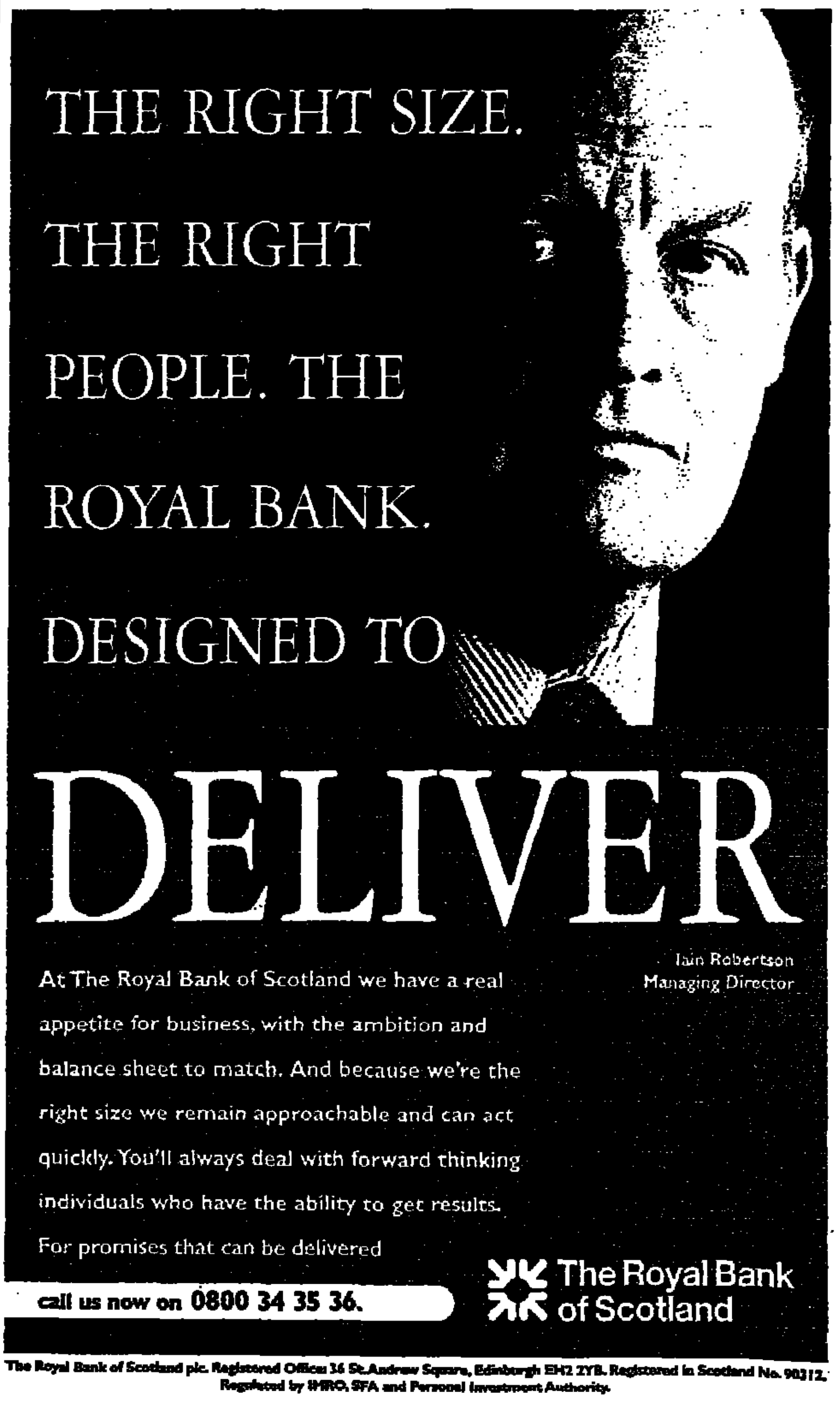
The Department of Trade *and Industry and the* European Commission agreed the long-awaited decision to allow the two companies to run joint services between Dover and Calais, *Dover-Zeebrugge and* Newhaven-Dieppe. The move will lead to a loss of 1,000 out of 5,000 jobs and a reduction in cross-Channel sailings.

However, the companies have been ordered to give an undertaking within three months that they will cap prices if a duopoly develops with Eurotunnel.

Ministers and European commissioners in Brussels still fear the merged company could prove so dominant that *rivals such as SeaFrance and* Hoverspeed are forced to withdraw from the short route. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, made *clear concerns that prices* could rise after the likely abolition, in 1999, of the duty-free concession that enables ferry operators to peg fares.

The companies, which together have 40 per cent of the short-crossings market, will move swiftly to combine services. The merged company, *P&O Stena Line, will be 60 per* cent owned by the British company. Both companies insist the move is intended to cut costs, estimated at £75 million, rather than increase fares.

Commentary, page 29



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Glaxo blunders over dividend

THERE were red faces at Glaxo Wellcome yesterday after the pharmaceuticals company owned up to a glaring corporate error over its half-year dividend (George Sivell writes).

It was meant to be paid as a foreign income dividend to shareholders but as a result of what Glaxo described as an "administrative error" it was paid as an ordinary dividend.

This means that non-taxpaying shareholders, such as pension funds, are short of some of their dividend. Glaxo says they will be sent a tax credit to compensate although it does not expect the tax charge to be affected. It refused to comment on whether heads would roll but pointed out that the bulk of the cost of the mistake would be a £250,000 bill for posting an explanatory letter to shareholders.

Glaxo said the mistake was first spotted internally. The news accompanied a trading statement showing sales 3 per cent down to £6.711 billion in the first ten months of this year.

Troubled Ionica sees shares slide

SHARES of Ionica, the wireless telecommunications group that floated in August, lost 40 per cent of their value yesterday after the company revealed delays with software, unexpected capacity limits and the introduction of tighter credit procedures (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Immediately after flotation Ionica shares reached 421p, valuing the company at £714 million. Yesterday they plunged 101p to 156½p, reducing its market value to £437 million. Nigel Playford, founder and chief executive, said he understood the reaction of the analysts but emphasised that the company was building a long-term business. He *said underlying* demand for Ionica's services was strong. The company revealed the difficulties as it announced results for the six months to September 30, showing pre-tax losses of £61.5 million, after £13 million last time. The number of residential customers rose 27 per cent in the second quarter to around 31,000, below forecasts.

Commentary, page 29

Marchpole chief to pocket £11m

MICHAEL MORRIS, chief executive of Marchpole Holdings, the Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) menswear group and sponsor of the Regent Street Christmas lights, will pocket £11 million when the company floats on the stock market next month (writes Dominic Walsh).

Mr Morris, who joined the group in 1985, is retaining a 38 per cent stake worth at least £50 million. However, Michael Reiner, one of the founders who retired from the board at the beginning of the year, is cashing in his remaining stake for an estimated £13 million.

The company announced yesterday that it plans to place up to 61.2 million shares at between 120p and 150p, valuing the company at between £140 million and £165 million. Up to 32.5 million will be placed by the company, raising around £39 million to pay off preference share capital and loan stock. Existing investors are offloading another 28.7 million shares.

Tempus, page 30

هكذا من الاصل

Rebound in high street sales stirs fears of rate rise

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street sales bounced back sharply in October, resurrecting fears in the City of further interest rate rises.

Retail sales volumes, which slumped in September because of shop closures for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, jumped 2.8 per cent in October, pushing the annual rate of growth up from 3.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

The cold weather provided a boost for clothing and footwear sales, which rose 8.2 per cent in the month — the biggest monthly gain for ten years. Household goods sales also bounced back, rising 4 per cent over the month, after the latest windfall payout from Northern Rock.

But the Treasury insisted that the headline figures, which were stronger than the City had expected, disguised some evidence of a slowdown in the quarterly growth rate.

Sales in August to October increased just 0.4 per cent over the previous quarter, with the slowdown most apparent in sectors that had previously benefited from windfall spending. Sales of household goods fell 2.2 per cent compared with the previous quarter.

A Treasury spokesman said: "Taking September and October together and smoothing out the impact on retail sales of the funeral, retail sales were little changed from the previous three months."

Economists, however, were divided on whether the tentative signs of a slowdown would be sufficient to persuade the Bank of England to refrain from further rate rises in the next few months. Richard Illey, UK economist at Hoare Govett, said: "While a final festive binge cannot be ruled out, windfall spending has probably peaked." But Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Any slowdown looks too little too late to prevent the monetary policy committee from pushing interest rates up further."

☐ The Bank of England has appointed John Vickers, of Oxford University, as its chief economist to replace Mervyn King, who is stepping up to become a Deputy Governor of the Bank.

Mr Vickers is currently Drummond Professor of Political Economy at All Souls College, Oxford, and is a member of Oftel's economic committee. An expert on industrial and regulatory economics, he served on Labour's competition advisory committee and previously worked as a financial analyst at Shell.

A Bank spokesman said: "We are pleased to have attracted such a top-notch economist who will bring a different economic perspective to the Bank."

Mr Vickers will also join the monetary policy committee, once Mr King officially becomes Deputy Governor after the enactment of the Bank of England Bill next spring.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.55	2.37
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.52	58.56
Canada $	2.512	2.324
Cyprus Cyp£	0.901	0.830
Denmark Kr	11.72	10.83
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.28	9.48
Germany Dm	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	485	446
Hong Kong $	13.86	12.86
Iceland	121	101
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.33	5.88
Italy Lira	3041	2804
Japan Yen	229.53	212.00

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Malta	0.881	0.822
Netherlds Gld	3.488	3.193
New Zealand $	2.88	2.62
Norway Kr	12.52	11.58
Portugal Esc	310.53	288.50
S Africa Rd	8.91	7.95
Spain Pta	258.29	239.50
Sweden Kr	13.58	12.48
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	327486	307608
USA $	1.793	1.650

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

DAWSON International, the Scottish knitwear producer which makes Pringle sweaters, has assured the City that its recovery plan will keep profits on track despite difficult autumn trading. Derek Finlay, chairman, above, saw a drop in prices of cashmere yarn send pre-tax profits to an expected £6.3 million (£7.5 million) for the 27 weeks to October 4. Earnings were 2.6p a share, against 3.2p, and the interim dividend rises to 1.67p, against 1.5p.

Revenue wins Botnar ruling

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE Inland Revenue yesterday won a £100 million tax ruling against Octav Botnar, the 84-year-old tycoon. But as the former Nissan UK chief vowed to appeal, his lawyers said that the Revenue had little chance of collecting the money.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe overturned a previous decision by the Revenue's Special Commissioners that Mr Botnar did not have to pay tax on dividends paid to his charitable trust by Nissan UK.

The move comes just two weeks after the Revenue dropped its case against Mr Botnar alleging tax fraud, saying he was too ill to stand trial. Mr Botnar has been living in Switzerland since the Revenue raided his offices in 1991, but now plans to return to the UK.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe ruled that as the deeds of the trust specifically precluded Mr Botnar and his wife from benefiting from the trust, they could have potentially benefitted by changing the deeds.

In his ruling, the judge pointed out that between 1988 and 1990 the trust had owned the lease on a flat in Eaton Square, Central London, occupied by Mr Botnar. However, Jeffrey Greene Russell, Mr Botnar's lawyers, said that this lease had been put in the wrong trust in error and that Mr Botnar had paid £50,000 tax to cover the error.

Yesterday Mr Botnar vowed to appeal against the ruling, describing it as "highly creative" and "bearing no resemblance to reality". Mark Spragg, a partner at Jeffrey Green Russell, said that the judge had only considered one out of six points raised by the Special Commissioner.

Mr Spragg added that the Revenue would be unlikely to be able to collect the £68 million of back tax or the £30 million or so of interest that has accumulated. Mr Botnar has few assets in the UK and the Revenue is not allowed, under Swiss law, to claim tax payments from Switzerland or even discuss UK tax matters on Swiss soil.

Welfare to Work warning

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government was warned yesterday by a Labour-dominated committee of MPs that its New Deal Welfare to Work programme will be "disastrous" unless ministers quickly improve its education and training provisions.

The committee's warning came as it published an early analysis of the £2.5 billion New Deal jobs scheme, under which the young and long-term unemployed will be offered work or training without the option of remaining on benefit.

Employment specialists insist that the quality of education and training offered under the New Deal will be vital to its success, but Derek Foster, chairman of the all-party Commons Employment Select Committee, said the Government had not yet ensured that the education and training elements of the New Deal were fully in place.

Speaking at the launch of the committee's report on the New Deal, he said: "The time is short. And they had better get on with it very quickly indeed. The consequences if we don't will be disastrous for the programme, and for the young people themselves."

Unemployed young people, he said, would gauge the programme on whether it led to a job and offered real opportunities.

MPs on the committee said there was "widespread optimism" about the programme.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UK pension funds defy market turmoil

BRITISH pension funds have enjoyed strong growth this year despite the stock market turmoil, according to a report from the WM Company, the financial performance consultants. By September 30, the average pension fund showed an actual return since January of 18.9 per cent, although sharp falls on markets around the world in October are likely to have reduced that by about 6 per cent.

WM described the 12 per cent return over the first ten months as a "healthy average". Peter Warrington of WM said: "As funds produced a return of 6 per cent in September, October's fall only neutralised September's rise and so can be seen as little more than a slight market correction, returning funds to the level reached at the end of August. Some managers had expected and positioned themselves for a more severe fall than has taken place so far." He added: "The ten-month return compares favourably with an average annual return over the last ten calendar years of 11.9 per cent."

Murdoch son appointed

JAMES MURDOCH, 24, the son of Rupert Murdoch, has been appointed president of News America Digital Publishing, the newly consolidated Internet publishing division of News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He will be responsible for the electronic versions of media outlets like *TV Guide*, Fox News and Fox Sport television. James Murdoch said: "We will be able to offer consumers a compelling arsenal of digital publishing products and services."

Milk Marque offer

MILK MARQUE, the dominant supplier of milk in England and Wales, is seeking to offer long-term contracts to customers, David Yeomans, chief executive, will tell the Agra Europe conference in London today. The move is designed to encourage investment in processing capacity by offering dairy companies secure milk supplies at market-related prices. Milk Marque's own moves into the processing of raw milk have come under pressure recently.

Estée Lauder expands

ESTÉE LAUDER, which makes make-up products and fragrances, said it would buy Aveda Corp, a maker of shampoos and other hair care products, for $300 million (£176 million) in cash. Aveda, based in Minneapolis, sells its 700 products primarily through distributors to about 30,000 professional salons and also operates 130 Aveda stores. Estée Lauder declined to say how much annual revenues Aveda generates and also declined to say how Estée Lauder would finance the deal.

Lloyd's reviews rules

LLOYD'S OF LONDON is set to revise its rules governing which brokers can use its insurance market, allowing access for more firms, the chairman, Sir David Rowland, said. Lloyd's will "explore the way the best brokers in each territory, who may not be Lloyd's brokers at all, can become part of the network", he said. Only brokers meeting strict criteria can place business in Lloyd's market. A review is needed because the number of Lloyd's brokers has plateaued, Sir David said.

Asian syndicates forecast

UP TO 20 Lloyd's of London underwriting syndicates could set up in Singapore when it completes negotiations to open its Asian headquarters in the city state, Sir David Rowland, the Lloyd's chairman, said. He added: "I can't give you a precise number, but if it was a dozen, 15, 20, I think it would be a very good start indeed." Lloyd's has been in discussions with Singapore insurance authorities to establish a trading presence for about 18 months.

Peer backs Mentorn

THE MENTORN GROUP, owner of Mentorn Barraclough Carey, the independent television production company, is being backed by Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer and businessman, for an expansion of its radio interests. The company, which has a turnover of around £30 million a year, has recently set up a broadcast division to bring together its radio interests. Lord Lloyd-Webber has taken a personal 25 per cent stake in Mentorn Broadcast for about £2 million.

EBRD profits rise

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reported a profit before provisions of 45 million ecus (£30.4 million) and a two million ecus profit after provisions in the three months to September 30. The EBRD said its year-to-date profit before provisions increased to 149.9 million ecus (69.7 million ecus), and profit after provisions grew to 15.1 million ecus (2.2 million ecus). Year-to-date provisions were 134.8 million ecus (67.5 million ecus).

Concentric disposal

CONCENTRIC has sold the assets of the loss-making, non-satellite part of its Concentric (Pressed Products) subsidiary for £7 million to European Commercial Pressings. On September 30, 1996, the net assets being sold amounted to £10.2 million. In the year to that date, the subsidiary's sales were £22.4 million and there was a £200,000 pre-tax loss. Concentric will receive £3.5 million on completion, £1.5 million in two instalments by March 31, 2000, and £2 million dependent on profitability.

Tomkins widens buyback

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is extending its buyback programme in the new year to achieve its targeted level of debts of 15 per cent of shareholders' funds. The plan will proceed in the absence of sizeable add-on acquisitions. The company also said it will give a presentation to investors in New York, in which it will reiterate its commitment to focusing on the development of a number of strategic business activities with long-term growth potential.

Swedish state prosecutor to see Moyne over Trustor

BY JON ASHWORTH

SWEDEN'S state prosecutor, Bo Skarinder, is to fly to London to question Lord Moyne about the alleged misappropriation of £49 million in funds from Trustor, the Swedish investment group of which the 67-year-old peer is chairman.

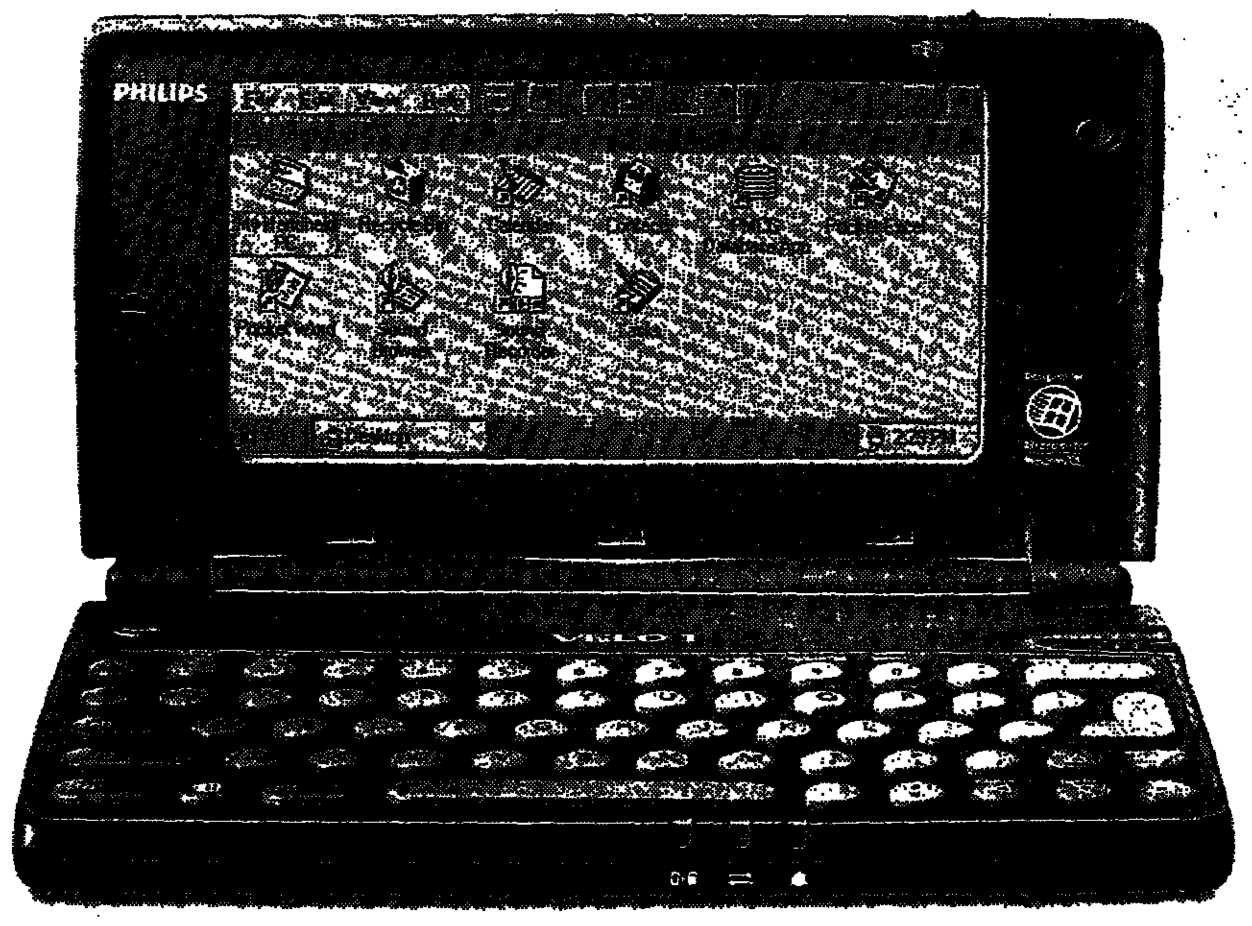
Lord Moyne, better known as Jonathan Guinness, is today expected to issue a further statement clarifying his role in the affair, which saw the funds pass through an account at Barclays Bank in London. The funds were subsequently dispersed to various accounts around the world. Lord Moyne and his business associate Lindsay Smallbone are signatories on the Barclays account.

Mr Skarinder said that he hoped to interview Lord Moyne and Mr Smallbone next week. A request will be made via the Serious Fraud Office, in London, which is helping the Swedish authorities under mutual legal assistance legislation.

A spokesman for Lord Moyne yesterday said that he intended to issue a statement today. Lord Moyne has denied any wrongdoing in his dealings with Trustor, but he is under pressure to clarify his role in the affair.

Lord Moyne two weeks ago announced his intention to step down as chairman of Trustor, saying that he had been let down by his Swedish associates.

Yesterday, he was quoted in a newspaper as saying: "I do believe there were irregularities, but I wasn't part of it." He said that he "may" have put his signature to "bits of paper", but otherwise declined to elaborate on his role.



(ACTUAL SIZE)

"...best little PC."
–Byte, 4/97, P. Wayner

"The best of the Windows CE devices."
–Fortune, 1997 Technology Buyers Guide

"...best of the breed."
–PC World, 3/97, Y. Arar

"Best HPC device."
–CNET, 1997

(ACTUAL QUOTES)

There's little reason to exaggerate one of the biggest stories in computing: Velo, the handheld PC that's "damn fast," according to Paperless Office. Sleek yet highly expandable, Velo's connectivity and built-in modem lets you fax, e-mail and surf the Web instantly, making it "the only one to be communications-ready out of the box," says PC Magazine. To learn more, visit us at www.velo1.com. RUN WINDOWS ANYWHERE.

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MAM goes the American way

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Rocco Forte and his family will probably not be sending a message of congratulations to Carol Galley and her colleagues on their enriching deal with Merrill Lynch. But the hoteliers would certainly testify to the immense power and influence that Merrill is acquiring with its takeover of Mercury Asset Management.

Such things do not come cheap, hence Merrill's readiness to pay a 30 per cent premium to the Mercury share price with barely a quibble.

The deal is one of those dreams which appears to deliver to both sides almost exactly what they want. Since its divorce from Warburg, MAM has scoured the United States for a suitable partner to give it global status and simultaneously Merrill has been seeking to bolster its asset management business, which barely registers in the UK.

London's finance firms are falling into foreign hands at such a formidable rate that it is surprising that the British National Party has not staged a demonstration. Perhaps it has failed to notice the changing ownership of the Square Mile. But yesterday's deal does, with the signature on a single £3.1 billion cheque, put ultimate control of a hefty slice of the British stock market into the ultimate control of the US business which continues to rejoice in its Thundering Herd reputation.

After the Prudential, MAM is probably the largest investor in the UK market, with a total holding of around 5 per cent. Its tendency to take big positions in its chosen companies magnifies its effect, as Sir Rocco found out. He is now busy building a new hotel empire after Ms Galley and her colleagues were instrumental in delivering his old one to jolly Gerry Robinson at Granada.

There is no reason to suspect that the MAM investment approach will change under new its new ownership, but there is the prospect that MAM, with Merrill's backing, will have even greater influence.

Although it might not be wise to mention it in Sir Rocco's earshot, the record indicates that the MAM team will use its power wisely. The performance tables show an extraordinarily consistent pattern of out performance by the Mercury funds. It is only because of its reputation for being up near the top of the tree that the slip up with the pooled pension fund has occasioned such comment. Whereas PDFM continues to proclaim that its strategy is right and the market is wrong, MAM's bosses have been quick to acknowledge the error and have changed course.

Merrill's enthusiasm for MAM clearly goes beyond the bottom line. Three of the MAM team will join the main executive board in New York. That is a move which should give some comfort to the nationalist tendency who see foreigners taking over the City. Carol Galley, Stephen Zimmerman and Hugh Stephenson will be unlikely to let the American voices in the Merrill boardroom drown out their own views on how the business should be developed.

Duty calls for Lord Sterling

Lord Sterling was cock-a-hoop as the green light shone for P&O Ferries to combine its cross-Channel operations with Stena. After waiting more than a year for the competition authorities in Brussels and the UK to reach a decision, their pronouncement was more generous than even he might have expected. So the downwards reaction of the P&O share price seemed churlish in the extreme.

Commissioner Karel van Miert appears to have ensured that sense prevailed, although the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, had indicated a wish to stop the merger, or hamper it with unwieldy, and perhaps unworkable, restrictions. There may be a cheerful message to be gleaned from the fact that the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, was prevailed upon to bow to Brussels rather than her natural inclinations to block it.

But establishing a workable regime for the ferry operators — and one which should allow a reasonable profit margin — is just the first stage in Lord Sterling's crusade. He can now be expected to turn his attentions to the issue of duty free sales, which the Council of Ministers has determined to abolish. In theory, the booze cruises should come to an end in 1999. While this might improve the calibre of the company on some cross-Channel trips, it will do little for the fare structure. Cheap crossings come courtesy of substantial splashing out on whisky and fags and the scent to disguise them.

The EU thinking was that duty free was an anomaly in a single market with a harmonized tax system and it should go. But while its abolition is now scheduled, tax harmonisation remains a distant dream, which poses a few problems for those who make duty free sales, whether on the sea or in the air.

Shop staff on the P&O ferry to Bilbao could find themselves in some quandary over pricing as they sail from Portsmouth into international waters (no duty) and then into French waters (duty a la Francais) back into international waters and onto Spain, and its duties.

Tomorrow, at the European jobs summit, the Irish Prime Minister will make a plea for the abolition of duty free sales to be postponed because of the disastrous effect it could have on the estimated 140,000 people who are employed in the sector. The potential for disputes with officious customs officials should also be taken into account.

Tales of the illogical

Even Molly, precocious star of the Safeway television commercials, might sense something amiss in yesterday's tale from the supermarket group. Sales growth has ground to a halt but, insists chief executive Colin Smith, the recently aborted merger talks with Asda were in no way influenced by this passing problem and, anyhow, Safeway's market share remains intact.

Molly could have told Mr Smith that Roald Dahl would never have risked such a story line, and the City certainly did not buy it. The booklet of fancy drawings which Safeway produced was lacking the essential illustration: three big, unfriendly giants prepared to fight hard.

Tesco seems secure as pack leader while the indications are that Sainsbury has regained its confidence and is on track to regain its position as a superior grocer. Asda has carved out its own price-conscious niche, but Safeway is struggling. It is saddled with a rump of old stores which are the wrong size and in the wrong place, and which will prove hard to ditch.

No wonder the prospect of a deal with Asda seemed attractive to Smith. But if the logic was so pressing months ago when the talks began, it is difficult to see why both companies are so adamant that the idea must now be buried. Going through the inevitable Monopolies Commission inquiry would create a degree of uncertainty for employees but yesterday's performance can hardly have left Safeway staff feeling entirely comfortable.

Ionica's crossed line

FOUR MONTHS is a long time in the go-go world of telecoms. Witness the extraordinary saga of BT, MCI and WorldCom. But the tale of Ionica makes the battle for control of one struggling telephone operator look sane. The company was floated on optimism and a share price of 390p and crashed down to 167p last night. Customer numbers are apparently on the increase but investors may be tempted to hang up on this one.

US banks merge in record $16bn deal

From Oliver August in New York

FIRST UNION and CoreStates Financial, retail banks on America's East Coast, have agreed a $16 billion (£10 billion) merger, the biggest in US banking history.

CoreStates earlier turned down an $18 billion offer from Mellon Bank, another East Coast retail bank, because of a failure to agree who would lead the combined group.

The First Union merger tops the recent $15.5 billion merger of NationsBank and Barnett Bank. Analysts expect the merger wave to accelerate, creating a few leading retail banks who dominate their geographic area.

Harold Schroeder, analyst at Keefe Buryett & Woods, said: "Size matters. The handwriting is certainly on the wall for more consolidation. It's going to be very difficult for other banks to compete with these larger banks."

The American banking system is highly fragmented for historical reasons. The Glass-Steagall Act of 1934 divorced retail banking from investment banking in the aftermath of the 1929 Wall Street crash and the Depression. Banking groups such as JP Morgan subsequently concentrated on high-margin investment banking, leaving retail banking to provincial bankers.

Until recently, regulators also restricted banks to statewide activity, mirroring the system of powerful state reserve banks. Acquisition-hungry retail banks are now buying or merging with direct competitors after a relaxation of banking regulations. However, their strategies still assume that the creation of new nationwide retail banks remains very difficult.

Citibank and Chase Manhattan, the only two retail banks with a well-developed national network, are currently concentrating on their investment banking arms.

After the easing of Glass-Steagall rules, retail banks and insurance companies are free to buy investment banks but not vice versa. This rule change made possible the recent $9 billion acquisition of Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street house, by Travelers Group, the insurance company. Analysts expect that First Union's next move after the merger could be a Wall Street acquisition.

First Union-CoreStates will have a strong presence on the Atlantic coast from Florida to New England, with 2,700 branches. They will form the sixth-largest retail bank in America with $200 billion in assets. First Union currently has $140 billion in assets and is in the process of acquiring Signet Banking from Virginia.

Fidelity to merge UK subsidiaries

FIDELITY, the US fund management group, has announced that it is merging its troubled UK brokerage company with Fidelity Investments, its other UK subsidiary, as part of a renewed assault on the European market (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Barry Bateman, president of Fidelity International, which incorporates the Investments division, has been appointed chairman of Fidelity Brokerage Services (FBS). Giles Vardey, the former Stock Exchange director, remains FBS president but will report to Mr Bateman. FBS was fined £220,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority in May after administrative failures.

Alan Wiseman, chairman, has seen Robert Wiseman Dairies increase its interim pre-tax profits by 41.5 per cent, to £8.65 million

Wiseman shrugs off milk competition

By Paul Durman

ROBERT WISEMAN Dairies has shrugged off tough competition in supplying milk to supermarkets and has lifted sales and operating profits by 38 per cent.

Although Unigate and Northern Foods have this week bemoaned the low profitability of supermarket sales, Wiseman is making an operating margin of 7 per cent, in spite of 74 per cent of its sales being to multiples. Alan Wiseman, chairman, said that this was "a realistic return for our investment". Mr Wiseman said that his company's new dairy in Manchester, which produces 175 million litres of milk a year, was taking customers from Northern Foods. By April, Wiseman will have invested £50 million in two years, paying particular attention, when designing processing systems, to the trolleys that supermarkets use to transport milk.

Pre-tax profits in the half year to September 27 rose 41.5 per cent, to £8.65 million, on sales of £125.2 million. The Scottish Pride business, which Wiseman bought from receivers for £4.8 million in March, contributed 25 million litres of the first-half output of 285 million litres of milk.

Earnings rose 34 per cent, to 7.32p. A 1.32p interim dividend, up 15 per cent, is due on February 19.

Land Securities hit by decline in sales

By Martin Barrow

PROFITS at Land Securities, Britain's biggest property company, slipped in the first half after a downturn in property sales. The company also said that rental growth had not been evident in all sectors, prompting a rebalancing of its property portfolio.

Pre-tax profits fell to £124.7 million from £128.9 million in the six months to September 30, with net rental income little changed at £205.5 million (£201.1 million). Sir Peter Hunt, chairman and managing director, said the company had seen good levels of lettings in retail warehousing, shopping centres, certain high streets and central London shops and offices.

Sale proceeds of £195.5 million were marginally below book value. The two major sales completed during the period were Sanctuary Buildings in Victoria, central London, which houses the Department of Education and Employment and is believed to have fetched £110 million, and Princes Quay shopping centre in Leeds.

Earnings fell to 17.27p a share (18.44p). The interim dividend is lifted to 7.60p a share from 7.35p.

Metal price fears knock Rio Tinto

SHARES in Rio Tinto, the UK mining group, fell to their lowest level in almost three years on growing concerns about base metal prices.

The shares, worth £11.09 in June, fell 20p to 720p yesterday, their lowest level since February 1995. Analysts attributed the reversal to worries about global base metal prices after a downturn in Asian economies.

Yesterday the World Gold Council said third-quarter gold demand in South East Asia was less than half the level in 1996. Thailand sold more gold than it acquired and gold prices are close to a 13-year low.

Change in fashion knocks Courtaulds

By Carl Mortished

COURTAULDS, the chemicals group which makes Tencel, the new fibre, suffered a setback as fashion trends turned against denim. Some 80 per cent of the cellulose-based product was being sold into the denim market but poor demand, a weak Japanese market and stockpiling last year left Courtaulds with too much Tencel in the pipeline.

Group pre-tax profits fell from £65 million to £62 million in the half year to September, hit by the strength of the pound. Courtaulds lost £6 million from translating overseas earnings but a £10 million setback was because of transactions, mainly as a result of selling fibres and chemicals made in the UK to overseas customers.

Gordon Campbell, chief executive, said long-term plans for Tencel would not be impaired as the company was reducing the dependence on denim which was now down to 60 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from 10.7p to 13.4p and the dividend is up 3 per cent to 4.6p.

Tempus, page 30

Generator plans £1bn overseas expansion

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

NATIONAL POWER, the country's largest generator, could spend more than £1 billion on international expansion by the end of the century as its home market contracts. The generator has already invested £1 billion overseas but yesterday said that it plans more spending as international business starts to deliver profits.

Keith Henry, chief executive, said the company would continue buying overseas assets at the rate of £300 million a year. National Power's domestic business is suffering from a declining market share triggered by the forced sale of power stations to The Energy Group and by a growing number of competitors.

National Power's share of the domestic electricity market fell from 27 per cent to 21 per cent in the six months to September 30.

The generator dealt another a blow to RJB Mining when Mr Henry said that he saw no prospect of Government assistance for the coal industry, nor state support for the development of clean-coal technology. Mr Henry is involved in tough negotiations with RJB on new coal contracts.

National Power's pretax profits for the half year were broadly flat at £254 million, against £251 million. Profits from overseas activities more than tripled to £67 million. The interim dividend, payable January 6, rises 50 per cent to 9p.

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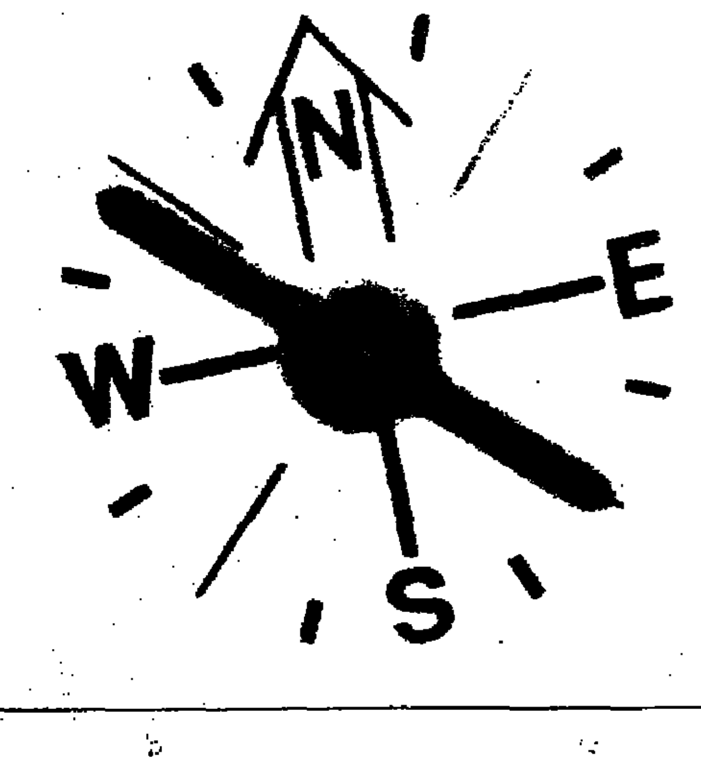

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers angry at heavy Merrill discount deals

IT was business as usual for the Thundering Herd yesterday. No sooner had Merrill Lynch concluded plans to pay £3.1 billion for Mercury Asset Management than it was back *in the market-place raising the* hackles of rival brokers by executing a series of heavily discounted basket trades.

Merrill Lynch was believed to be behind a series of strange moves recorded by the computerised trading screens that threw the market for smaller companies into confusion and left some firms struggling to avoid large paper losses.

Among them was **Brands Hatch Leisure**, 2½p easier at *163½p. Closer inspection re*vealed a line of 230,000 bought at 165p and unloaded at 125p. There was also a heavily discounted trade in **Cliveden**, the *hotelier*, 3p cheaper at 50½p. A line of 633,332 shares, which *may* have belonged to GAN Asset Management, were bought at 53½p and sold on at 35p, while **Suttcliffe Speakman**, ½p easier at 19½p, saw two million bought at 20p, with 1.75 million of *them sold on later at 17p.*

One irate broker said: "It appears to have been a bought deal with Merrill having been asked to unwind a portfolio of shares in various smaller companies. It's caused all sorts of problems for other brokers dealing in those shares affected."

Merrill Lynch declined to comment.

Elsewhere, an opening rise on Wall Street enabled London to recover from an initial bout of jitters, brought *on by the overnight setback for* the Nikkei average in Japan and the rebound in the October retail sales. This inevitably led to revived fears of another rise in bank base rates.

The FTSE 100 index, down almost 60 points at one stage, rallied strongly towards the close. *It ended 15.3 lower at* 4,830.1, with total turnover of 803 million shares.

The biggest fall was reserved for **Ionica Group**, with the interim figures failing to live up to market expectations. The shares tumbled 96p to 156½p, wiping £167.7 million *from the group's stock market* value of £437 million. The telecoms group made its market debut in August at around the 421p level.

Buy recommendations from the likes of Lehman Brothers, SBC Warburg, *James Capel* and UBS rang the right number for **Vodafone**, which rallied with a rise of 14½p to 356p. The *shares* had been undermined on Tuesday by news of price cuts.

Rio Tinto was another casualty, dropping 26½p to 720p against a background of falling base metal prices. The *drop in demand for metals*, such as copper, stems from the continuing volatility in Far East markets. Brokers say copper remains big business for *Rio Tinto*, accounting for a fifth of group sales and 43 per cent of net earnings. But with currency deflation continuing to take a toll on the tiger economies, demand for the metal has been falling. *Paribas, the broker, recently* downgraded its recommendation for the group from a "buy" to a "hold". But a rise in the tin price was good news for **Petaling Tin**, up 3p at 53p.

The overnight setback in *Japan that saw the Nikkei fall* 5 per cent left **Fleming Japan** 3½p lower at 134½p.

Brokers are continuing to take a cautious view of prospects for **De la Rue** after interim results earlier this week. *Credit Lyonnais Laing* and BZW have both come out with "sell" recommendations.

There was further volatility for **Williams**, with the price dropping 33½p to 350½p in the wake of Tuesday's sharp *rise. Brokers were last night* blaming the Stock Exchange's new trading system for the moves with the spread between bid and offer widening considerably.

Century Inns, headed by Alistair Arkley, *chief executive*, firmed 1p to 131p after confirming plans to plough further money into its chain of tenanted pubs. The move has been paying off, with profits last year growing from £7.1 million to £8.5 million.

A number of brokers took the view that **Safeway** shares looked cheap in the run-up to yesterday's interim figures. Now they look even cheaper, with the price dropping 64p to 330p after the group followed up February's profits warning *with yet another. Bill Myers* at Williams de Broë, the broker, has lowered his recommendation on the shares from "hold" to "sell".

Other supermarket chains were marked lower, with **J Sainsbury** down 17½p at 476½p, **Asda** 3½p at 159½p, **Tesco** 16½p at 473½p, and **Somerfield** 5p at 189p.

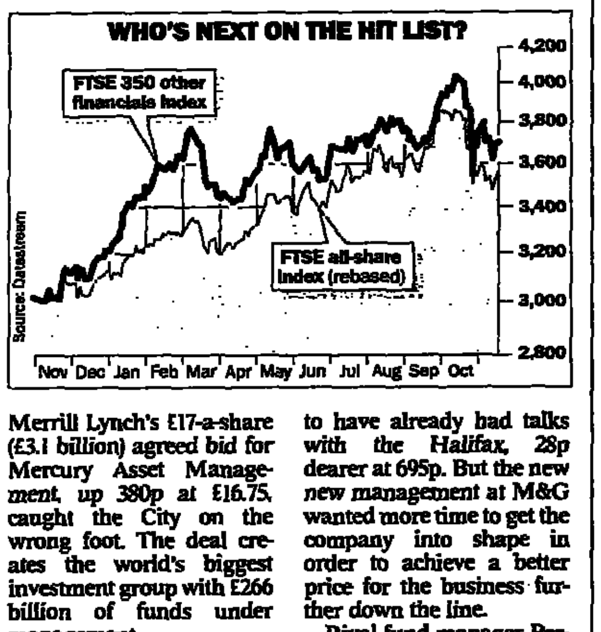
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London took their lead from firmer European markets, with investors perturbed by current volatility *still switching out of equities*. The market was able to shrug off those stronger than expected retail sales numbers.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt put on £½ at £118 5/32 on moderate trading that saw 81,000 contacts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 stood out with a rise of £¾ at £117 17/32, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £⅛ better at £104 3/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Prices firmed despite nerves over Asia's problems. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 39.54 points to 7,690.36 by midday.

Barry Whitehead, finance director, and Alistair Arkley of Century Inns, 1p higher as investment yields profits



Merrill Lynch's £17-a-share (*£3.1 billion*) agreed *bid* for Mercury Asset Management, up 380p at £16.75, caught the City on the wrong foot. The deal creates the world's biggest investment group with £266 billion of funds under management.

The speculators are hoping not to be caught out again and are already, hopefully, targeting the next financial company on the hit list.

M&G Group, up 165p at £13.35, has been tipped as a potential target for some*time. The group is believed* to have already had talks *with the Halifax, 28p* dearer at 695p. But the new *new management at M&G* wanted more time to get the company into shape in order to achieve a better price for the business further down the line.

Rival fund manager Per*petual also jumped 240p to* £24.75 in sympathy with MAM, while among the few remaining independent merchant banks speculative buying drove Schroders 140p higher to *£18.15* with the non-voting 55p up at £16.05. Hambros *also rose 4p to 249p.*

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7690.36 (+39.54)
S&P Composite	943.36 (+5.13)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15842.46 (-884.11)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10154.36 (-90.82)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	870.72 (-9.29)
Sydney:	
AO	2442.3 (-26.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3834.82 (+1.35)
Singapore:	
Straits	1680.97 (-8.04)
Brussels:	
General	13527.05 (-31.55)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2790.56 (+7.95)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1149.90 (-5.30)
London:	
FT 30	3138.8 (-8.6)
FTSE 100	4830.1 (-15.3)
FTSE 250	4630.3 (+6.9)
FTSE 350	2335.5 (-5.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2510.07 (+3.48)
FTSE All-Share	2285.91 (-5.08)
FTSE Non Financials	2324.20 (-8.88)
FTSE Fixed Interest	130.59 (+0.03)
FTSE Govt Secs	99.44 (+0.31)
Bargains	48029
SEAQ Volume	807.3m
US$	1.6902 (-0.0040)
German Mark	2.9288 (+0.0065)
Exchange Index	104.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4810
£:SDR	1.2313
RPI	159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmt Zero	100¼	...
BCH Group	198	- 1
BG 'B'	29½	...
Buckland Inv Wts	10	...
Buckland Inv	18½	+ 1
Cresco International	153½	...
Foresight Tech Wts	5½	...
Foresight Tech	100	...
Gyrus Group	147½	...
Holmes Place	182½	- 1
Latchways (155)	170½	...
Metalsrussia	86½	...
Minorplanet Systems	53½	...
NSB Retail Sys	181½	...
Newsquest (250)	238½	...
Northern Recrtmnt	116½	- 5
Nottingham Frst (70)	56½	...
SHL Group	262½	+ 1
Workplace Tech	205½	- 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Meyer Int n/p (360)	19	+ 3½
Recognitn Sys n/p (21)	1¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
M&G	1335p (+160p)
MAM	1675p (+380p)
Allied Colloids	125p (+10½p)
Allianc & Leic	715p (+35p)
Prism Rail	350p (+17p)
EFM	479½p (+22p)
Vodafone	356p (+14½p)
Royal Bk Scot	675p (+25½p)
FALLS:	
BBB Design	60½p (-12p)
Safeway	330p (-64p)
Dialog	172p (-16p)
TI	470p (-30p)
Mang Bronze	473½p (-21p)
Sappi	355p (-14p)
Capital Radio	475p (-18p)
Rio Tinto	720p (-26½p)
Danka Bus Systems	565p (-20p)
EMI	493p (-17p)
Man United	624p (-18½p)
Frogmore	477p (-13p)
BBA	372p (-9½p)
Norwich Union	355p (-9p)
Reckitt Colman	835p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Homeless Bovis

SHOULD P&O be selling Bovis next month? The company affirms that the flotation is on course but signs are that *the market* is barely interested. The baseline valuation of £250 *million mooted only* a *month* ago is looking remarkably shaky and a figure closer to £200 million might be necessary to find a home for all the shares.

The trouble is not Bovis, which is by all accounts a reasonably profitable housebuilder, but the sector. Institutions are not interested in builders, fearing mortgage *rate* increases, rising land prices and a gnawing suspicion that the London house-price bubble will burst before it has had time to reach the provinces. Hence the share prices of leading builders such as Beazer and Wimpey have tumbled 20 to 30 per cent since the beginning of the year. Investors who want a stake *in this industry* can buy shares *in* an *established* housebuilder such as Barratt Developments, valued at 10.5 *times forecasts* of current-year earnings. Beazer and Wimpey are even cheaper at 9.5 times yet Bovis hopes to float at multiples of more than ten times earnings of £25 million.

Having recently been stuffed with expensive shares in the Berkeley Homes rights issue, the market's appetite for Bovis looks slim and a discount *of at least 10 to 15 per cent* seems inevitable, leaving Bovis valued about *£225 million*. What message would P&O send to the market if it sold Bovis at such a slim premium to its nets assets of £200 million?

If P&O really wanted to secure value for its shareholders, it would demerge Bovis and let investors choose when to *sell their shares. But* P&O needs cash to build cruise ships, so Bovis *is for the chopping* block.

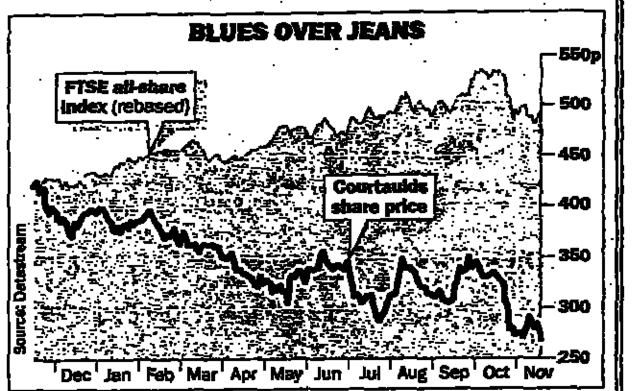
Courtaulds

SHARES in Courtaulds have fallen so far that they might tempt the unwary. *Assuming* earnings per share in the current year of 24p, the stock is trading on a multiple as low as 11. That is good enough reason not to sell Courtaulds but provides no clue as to when growth *will* take the earnings higher.

Volatility in demand for Tencel is not too much of a worry when production of the fibre is still in low volumes, but signs that consumer demand is weak in Japan is a worry — that *country being a key buyer of* the new fibre. Courtaulds is seeking new markets for Tencel and hopes to reduce dependence on denim to 20 per cent, but it is still a long way from turning this material into a *household* name, such as Lycra, which would guarantee the super-profits Courtaulds is hoping for.

The big headache for Courtaulds is the strong *pound, which spoilt a strong* advance in local currency terms from coatings and polymers. However, translation problems are less worrying than export difficulties in fibres and chemicals, where *Courtaulds is paying the* price for choosing to build its Tencel factory in the UK rather than on the Continent.

The high capital cost of *plant means* that relocation is not an option. Sooner or later the pound will fall, but even then investors may have to wait for jam as a rising tax charge will slow the growth in earnings. One for very *patient investors.*



Marchpole

WHAT DO Frankie Dettori, Ian Wright, Grant Mitchell of *EastEnders*, and the Chelsea *football team have in common*? Answer: they all wear Yves Saint Laurent clothing designed and distributed by Marchpole Holdings.

The down-market progress of the YSL brand offers scope for *Marchpole to build its* business as a public com*pany. The once* elite Paris couturier *is now in* kidswear and (heaven forbid) sportswear, reflecting the trend to dress down on more days than Friday.

Success in the UK has led to international *ambitions*, with a menswear licence for Turkey and a casualwear licence for Japan. Being neither manufacturer nor retailer, Marchpole argues that it is low risk. It designs clothes under the eye of its Paris overseers, and then distrib*utes them to retailers on* a made-to-order basis.

Nevertheless, Marchpole is hardly cheap; the shares will be offered on a pro forma multiple of between 16.4 and 19.4 times *1997* earnings — on a par with, or slightly higher than, *brands such as* French Connection, Ted Baker, Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren's Polo. If you believe the sales patter, Marchpole offers almost risk-free growth, but brands are more *easily* destroyed than built. As it moves aggressively into the casual clothing market, YSL will find itself fighting to win the short-term fashion loyalties of the young, whose fickle tastes put thousands of workers in Nike trainer factories on the dole. YSL could get a *bloody* nose, *and so* could Marchpole.

Newcastle Utd

OTHER floats may have performed worse, but few can have been as shambolic as Newcastle United's. A few *weeks before the club came to* market, its manager, Kevin Keegan, resigned. A few weeks later, the joint chief executive, Mark Corbidge, resigned. Shortly after that, Sir *John Hall* stepped down as chairman of the football club *subsidiary*.

Now the apparent *raison d'être* for floating — the new 55,000-seat stadium at Castle Leazes — has been put on the backburner. Instead, United has asked the local council to approve a *plan to expand the* old stadium to 50,000 seats. According to United, this expansion will be done without hitting existing capacity and will generate as much revenue as Castle Leazes. If this is achieved, it will be a miracle. United was short on detail *yesterday* and the *management* may be left with egg on their faces once the plans are brought to fruition.

The future of United is appearing less bright all the time. The shares have fallen from a post-float high of 140p to 99½p yesterday. And that *looks too expensive.*

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
116⅛	113 27/32	Treas 4⅝% 1998	115 15/16	+ 1/16	3.98	6.30
103⅛	100 5/32	Exch 9% 1998	100 21/32		8.72	7.18
101 1/32	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.26
110¼	103⅝	Treas 14% 1996-01	103⅜		13.55	7.27
114 5/32	106 27/32	Treas 15½% 1998	106 25/32	- 1/32	14.53	7.34
109⅜	104 15/32	Exch 12% 1998	104 13/32	- 1/16	11.49	7.35
105¾	102⅛	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅜	- 1/16	9.28	7.32
111 1/32	106⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅝		11.53	7.28
108⅛	104 11/32	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅝	+ 1/32	10.04	7.21
99⅜	96 9/16	Treas 6% 1999	98½	+ 1/32	6.11	7.11
109⅝	105 15/32	Conv 10¼% 1999	105 9/16		9.71	7.21
106¼	103 5/16	Conv 9% 2000	103 25/32	+ 1/32	8.67	7.11
104 11/32	102 7/32	Treas 8% 2000	102 7/32	+ 1/32	7.80	7.05
104 5/32	102 7/32	Treas 8½% 2000	102⅝	+ 1/32	8.29	7.18
119⅛	113½	Treas 13% 2000	113⅝	+ 1/32	11.42	7.16
112 5/32	98⅜	Treas 10% 2001	108 11/32	+ 1/16	9.23	7.06
101 13/16	98 1/32	Treas 7% 2001	100⅝	+ 3/32	6.99	6.95
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102 13/16	97 7/32	Treas 7% 2002	100 11/16	+ 1/32	6.95	7.06
122¼	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅛	+ ⅛	8.76	6.91
107 7/32	102 5/32	Treas 8% 2003	105¼	+ 3/32	7.59	6.82
117⅛	111¼	Treas 10% 2003	114 25/32	+ 1/16	8.78	6.84
116 13/16	112⅛	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112 15/16	+ 1/16	10.18	7.08
90 7/32	82 7/32	Fund 3½% 1999-04	88½	+ 1/32	3.95	5.58
118 5/32	109 11/16	Conv 9½% 2004	114 9/16	+ ⅛	8.27	6.76
102 7/32	94½	Treas 6¾% 2004	100⅜	+ 1/16	6.74	6.73
114¼	104 9/32	Treas 8½% 2005	111⅛	+ ⅛	7.65	6.65
122 9/32	110 9/32	Conv 9½% 2005	115¼	+ 1/16	8.21	6.76
130 5/16	124 5/32	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127 9/32	+ ⅛	9.80	6.84
108 7/16	98 7/32	Treas 7¾% 2006	105 7/16	+ 3/32	7.10	6.65
110 1/32	93 9/32	Treas 7¾% 2006	107 7/32	+ 11/32	7.24	6.68

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
108¾	108 1/32	Treas 8% 2002-06	104¼	+ ⅛	7.67	6.96
123 5/32	115 7/32	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120 15/16	+ 3/32	9.72	6.89
116⅛	105 1/32	Treas 8½% 2007	112¾	+ 1/16	7.54	6.66
107¼	99¾	Treas 7¼% 2007	104 5/32	+ 1/16	6.92	6.59
121½	108 9/32	Treas 9% 2008	118 7/16	+ 5/32	7.58	6.57
114¾	101	Treas 8% 2009	111 9/32	+ 1/16	7.18	6.56
99 9/16	86¼	Treas 6¼% 2010	96 9/32	+ 3/16	8.47	6.83
124 9/16	109½	Conv 9% 2011	120⅝	+ 7/32	7.45	6.64
125 7/32	109¾	Treas 9% 2012	121 17/32xd	+ 1/16	7.39	6.64
93¾	80 3/32	Treas 5½% 2008-12	90 9/32	+ ⅛	6.05	6.51
112 9/16	98 9/32	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	109 7/16	+ ⅛	7.07	6.69
LONGS (over 15 years)						
116¾	100 7/32	Treas 8% 2013	113¼	+ 3/16	7.06	6.63
118 5/32	101 3/32	Treas 8% 2015	115 9/32	+ 7/32	6.95	6.56
126 9/16	103⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	123½	+ 5/16	7.06	6.59
121⅛	101 5/16	Tr 8% 2021	117 9/16	+ 9/32	6.80	6.52
UNDATED						
54⅛	43 9/32	War Ln 3½%	52 11/16	+ 1/32	6.64	
38¼	30 5/16	Treas 2½%	37	+ 3/32	6.76	
59¼	49⅜	Consols 4%	58⅝	+ ⅛	6.83	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
193¼	184⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	192 9/32	+ 1/32	3.27	3.59
190 3/16	180 9/32	Treas IL 2½% 2003	189 5/32	+ 1/32	3.24	3.46
123 9/16	117 9/16	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	122 9/32	+ 1/16	3.21	3.39
204 5/16	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	202 7/32	+ 11/32	3.23	3.38
185⅛	170 11/16	Treas IL 2½% 2009	183 9/32	+ 1/16	3.19	3.30
194⅝	176⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	191 9/32	+ 1/16	3.18	3.28
161 5/32	144 9/32	Treas IL 2½% 2013	159⅛	+ 1/16	3.18	3.28
174 5/16	153 9/16	Treas IL 2½% 2016	171 9/16	+ 1/16	3.17	3.25
168⅛	147 5/32	Treas IL 2½% 2020	166 9/16	+ 1/16	3.18	3.25
141 9/32	122 1/32	Treas IL 2½% 2024	139⅝	+ 1/16	3.18	3.24
138 9/16	119 9/16	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	136 7/16	+ 1/16	3.17	3.23

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	140	22½	25½	29	1½	4½	5½
(*159½)	160	9½	13½	18	8	11	13½
Abbey Nat	350	77	102	125	48	73	85½
(*969)	1000	52½	77½	100½	73½	98	110½
All&Leic	700	46	56½	71½	27½	38	45
(*723½)	750	26	36½	49	56	66	72½
Alld Dom	500	32	44	53	21½	28½	35
(*520½)	550	13½	21½	30½	51	55½	63
BAA	460	45	58½	68½	12½	18½	26½
(*486)	500	22½	37½	48	30½	36½	45
BAT Ind	500	48½	65½	73	30	37	35
(*524½)	550	24	42	50	45½	64	61½
Barclays	1450	118½	153½	194½	83½	109½	131
(*1473½)	1500	94	128½	170	108½	134	155½
Bass	850	43	73	78	40	58½	53
(*865½)	900	21	51	56	70	86½	81
Boots	850	50½	75½	90½	37	49	58
(*854½)	900	30	52½	67	65	76½	85
Br Airways	550	35½	58½	66½	28	38	46
(*554)	600	16	36½	45	57	65½	72
BP	850	68½	95	111½	36	50	60½
(*876½)	900	45	71½	88	56½	72	84½
Br Steel	140	11	16	19½	7	9½	14
(*145)	160	4	8	11½	20	21½	26½
C&W	500	28	57½	70	25½	41	48
(*508)	550	19½	37½	49	53½	69	76½
CU	750	63	84½	77½	46½	68	59½
(*756)	800	41	63	55	75	98½	88
GlaxoW	1250	84	113½	148½	54½	90	97½
(*1265½)	1300	59	90	123½	77½	114½	122
HSBC	1400	153	203½	240½	108½	157½	170½
(*1444½)	1450	129½	186	217½	132	183½	196
Halifax	650	63	75½	88	10½	23	27
(*694½)	700	32½	48	61	29	44	49½
ICI	800	66½	82½	101	27	48	56½
(*828½)	850	40	56½	75½	51	74	81½
Land Sec	950	56	73½	80½	38	42½	53½
(*966)	1000	35	49	59½	65½	68½	79½
M&S	600	37	54½	62½	24½	33½	39
(*604)	650	17½	33	40	54½	58½	68½
Natl Pwr	500	41	60½	69	21	29½	37½
(*529)	550	17½	38	48	45½	55	64
Nat West	850	82½	97½	118½	38½	58	70
(*883½)	900	57½	71	94	63½	83	94½
Reuters	650	54½	73	86½	25½	41	51½
(*674)	700	30	48	61½	50	69½	72
Ryl&Sun	500	53	65½	76½	19½	29½	38
(*528½)	550	28	40½	52½	43	55½	61½
Safeway	330	24	34½	42½	18	20½	24½
(*335)	360	12	21½	25	34½	38	41½
Sainsbury	460	36½	47½	57	15½	19½	27½
(*476½)	500	17	29½	41	35	39½	48
Shell	417	28½	—	—	18½	—	—
(*419½)	433	19	—	—	26½	—	—
Scott Bch	550	42½	61½	78½	24½	40½	46
(*560)	575	30	49	—	36½	53	—
Std Char	600	69	84½	104	33	44½	52
(*637)	650	41½	59	80	57	69	77
Thames W	850	60½	79½	97½	21½	34½	43½
(*899)	900	31½	54	70½	44	57½	67
Vodafone	330	37	48½	57	10½	16	20½
(*355½)	360	22	32½	42	23½	30	34½
Woolwich	280	27	30½	35½	5½	11	14½
(*295)	300	16	19½	25	13	20½	24
Zeneca	1700	104½	150	183½	82½	111½	105½
(*1713)	1800	61½	104½	137	137	166	159

	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	200	10	21½	30	—	12	21
(*210)	220	—	13	21½	10	22½	32
Blue Circ	330	18	37½	45	—	12	17
(*348)	360	—	21	30	12	26	31½
Br Aero	1500	78	134	172½	—	58	85
(*1578)	1600	—	82½	121	22	109½	133½
Br Telcm	425	29	44½	—	—	15	—
(*454)	465	—	23½	—	11	33½	—
Cadbury	600	11½	40	53½	—	27½	34½
(*611½)	650	—	17½	31	38½	52	62
Energy Gp	600	25½	41½	47½	—	11½	20
(*625½)	650	—	20	23½	24½	36½	43½
Gallaher	300	18½	33	38	—	12	13½
(*318½)	330	—	17	22	11½	26	28½
GEC	390	9½	29	41	—	18	21
(*399½)	420	—	15½	26½	20½	34½	36½
Grnd Met	550	17½	41	56	—	26½	32
(*567½)	600	—	22	33½	32½	55	60
Guinness	550	11½	44	54	—	28	35
(*561½)	600	—	22	32	38½	54	63
Hanson	280	5½	24	29½	—	14	18½
(*285½)	300	—	14½	20	14½	24½	29½
Imp Tob	360	24	31	38	—	12½	16
(*384)	390	—	15	23½	6	23	32
Kingfshr	800	32½	61½	94½	—	32	48
(*832½)	850	—	55½	68½	17½	53½	72
Lasmo	260	7½	22½	30½	—	10½	15
(*267½)	280	—	14	27	12½	19½	25
Ladbroke	280	4½	24	31	—	12	20½
(*284½)	300	—	15	22	15½	23½	31½
LucasVar	180	11½	20	25½	—	7	10
(*191½)	200	—	10½	15½	8½	16½	19½
P&O	650	7½	44½	55	—	28½	36
(*657½)	700	—	22	31½	42½	58½	64
Prudentl	600	38½	69	79½	—	22	31
(*638½)	650	—	42	54	11½	44½	55
Rio Tinto	700	21	64	79	—	32	54½
(*721)	750	—	40	55	29	58	81½
Redland	330	3½	19	21½	—	11	12
(*333½)	360	—	6½	8	26½	27	27½
R-Royce	220	17	26½	31½	—	9	12
(*237)	240	—	16½	20½	3	18	21½
Tesco	480	12½	35½	48½	—	17	27½
(*472½)	500	—	19	27½	27½	29	48½
Utd Bisc	200	5½	16½	20	—	8½	15
(*205½)	220	—	7½	10½	14½	18	26½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	261	11½	24	28½	8½	16½	20
(*262½)	283	3½	15	19	22½	28	32
BSkyB	390	30½	46	59	11½	24	27½
(*406½)	420	15	31	43½	26½	39	42½
Br Bio	100	11½	19½	25½	5	12½	15
(*105½)	110	7	15½	21½	10	18	20½
Centrica	80	11	16	19½	1½	3½	6
(*89)	90	5	10½	14½	5½	7½	10½
Dixons	650	42½	63½	87½	16	34	42½
(*672)	700	18½	46	62	41½	58½	66½
EMI	482	30	49½	—	22	35	—
(*496½)	520	18	37	—	37½	51	—
Granada	800	30	54½	67½	22½	41	48
(*804)	850	11	34	44½	53½	70½	76½
GUS	650	56	78	93½	7½	24	28½
(*695)	700	25½	51	66	28	44	50½
Lloyds TSB	700	35	62½	81½	26½	50	61
(*705)	750	15	41	59½	56½	78	87½
Lonrho	90	7	11½	17	4½	10½	12½
(*90)	100	3	8	13½	11	17	18½
Norwch	330	29½	41½	48	5½	10	16
(*355)	360	10	27	31½	15½	21½	29½
Orange	240	11½	22	28	7½	11½	16
(*243½)	260	4½	13	19	19	22½	36½
Railtrck	950	61½	102	126½	26½	52	57
(*991)	1000	36½	79½	102½	47½	74½	79½
Scot Pwr	420	43½	56	70	4	14	22½
(*458)	460	18	35½	49½	16	29½	38
Tarmac	110	7½	12½	14	3½	7	9
(*112½)	120	3	8	10	9½	12½	14½
Tomkins	280	19	27	35	6	12	18
(*292)	300	8½	17½	25	12	22	25½
Unilever	450	33½	51	56	7½	18½	22½
(*474½)	475	18½	37	42½	17	29½	34

November 19 Total: 38353 Calls: 16515 Puts: 21838

FTSE INDEX (*4828)

Strike	Calls Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun	Puts Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun
4700	151	299	352	419½	523	6½	122	169	211	270
4750	108	257½	320	387	—	13	136	187½	229	—
4800	70	228½	290	357	465½	25	155½	207½	248½	311
4850	39½	198	258½	325	—	45½	175½	229	268½	—
4900	19	165½	230½	295½	407	77½	139	249	289½	354
4950	7½	142	200	267½	—	124	234½	271	313	—
5000	2½	120	178½	245	354	174	252	300	342½	400½

November 19 Total: 5588 Calls: 2965 Puts: 2621 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	117-30	118-11	117-21	118-05	81832
Previous open interest 182665	*Mar 98*	*118-09*	*118-20*	*118-09*	*118-17*	7712
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	102.93	103.34	102.93	103.24	176461
Previous open interest 267803	Mar 98	102.28	102.64	102.28	102.54	2708
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.77	103.83	103.70	103.77	8284
Previous open interest 21050	Mar 98	103.05	103.05	103.05	103.07	20
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	*Dec 97*	*112.63*	*112.95*	*112.51*	*112.86*	54873
Previous open interest 123254	Mar 98	112.90	113.25	112.88	113.22	3193
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	129.71	129.90	129.66	129.88	3648
	Mar 98	*129.05*	*129.18*	*128.99*	*129.16*	*1861*
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.31	92.32	92.27	92.31	14763
	Mar 98	92.24	92.24	92.18	92.22	19231
Previous open interest 750601	Jun 98	92.24	92.24	92.18	92.22	15126
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.17	96.18	96.17	96.18	16982
Previous open interest 1812330	Mar 98	96.01	96.02	95.99	96.00	43116
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.81	93.85	93.81	93.85	11899
Previous open interest 527488	Mar 98	94.61	94.65	94.60	94.63	13460
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	97.87	97.92	97.87	97.90	6062
Previous open interest 187290	Mar 98	97.78	97.84	97.77	97.82	9466
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.33	95.34	95.32	95.33	529
Previous open interest 37624	Mar 98	95.32	95.34	95.31	95.33	698
FTSE 100	Dec 97	4820.0	4882.0	4803.0	4870.0	9662
Previous open interest 71553	Mar 98	4874.5	4874.5	4864.5	4914.5	210

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 5 Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛, Sell: 2 mth 7; 3 mth: 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7 9/32-7 7/32	7⅜-7 5/16	7 7/16-7⅜	7 9/16-7½	
Sterling Money Rates:	7 9/32-7¼	7 11/32-7½	7½-7 7/16	7 19/32-7 17/32	7 25/32-7 23/32
Interbank:	7⅜-7¼	7 7/16-7½	7½-7 7/16	7 21/32-7 19/32	7 25/32-7 23/32

Overnight: open 7¼, close 5.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7¼	n/a	7 7/16	7 11/16	7 13/16
Sterling CDs:	7¼-7 11/32	7 13/32-7 11/32	7 15/32-7 13/32	7 11/16-7⅝	7 13/16-7¾
Dollar CDs:	5.61	n/a	5.81	5.79	5.92
Building Society CDs:	7 9/32-7¼	7⅜-7 5/16	7½-7 7/16	7 19/32-7 17/32	7 25/32-7 23/32

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 9/16-5 7/16	5 11/16-5 9/16	5⅞-5¾	5 13/16-5 11/16	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	3¼-3 3/16	3⅜-3 5/16	3⅝-3½	3 13/16-3 11/16	4-3
French Franc:	3⅜-3 5/16	3½-3 7/16	3 11/16-3⅝	3 15/16-3 13/16	3⅞-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1½-1⅜	1 9/16-1½	2-1 15/16	2⅛-2 1/16	1½-½
Yen:	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $305.50-305.80 Close: $305.00-305.50 High: $306.30-306.70
Low: $304.70-305.20 AM: $306.40 PM: $305.95

Krugerrand: $304.50-306.50 (£180.00-182.00)

Platinum: $397.00 (£234.90) Silver: $5.25 (£3.105) Palladium: $211.00 (£124.85)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2923-3.3018	3.2983-3.3018	1¼-1pr	3⅝-3⅜pr
Brussels	60.230-60.474	60.356-60.474	22-17pr	63-56pr
Copenhagen	11.120-11.151	11.141-11.151	¾-¼pr	1¾-1pr
Dublin	1.1180-1.1279	1.1236-1.1258	13-7pr	43-36pr
Frankfurt	2.9212-2.9300	2.9272-2.9300	1-¾pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	298.12-299.08	298.57-299.08	¾-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Madrid	246.62-247.34	247.15-247.34	51-41pr	171-152pr
Milan	*2860.4-2869.5*	*2866.5-2869.5*	*28-12pr*	*99-76pr*
Montreal	2.3881-2.3944	2.3921-2.3944	0.77-0.21pr	1.48-1.40pr
New York	1.6868-1.6916	1.6897-1.6907	0.26-0.24pr	0.775-0.745pr
Oslo	11.884-11.927	11.905-11.914	¾-¼pr	1¾-1¼pr
Paris	9.7780-9.8072	9.7977-9.8072	3⅝-3⅛pr	10⅛-9⅝pr
Stockholm	12.756-12.861	12.769-12.785	¾-¼pr	1-¼pr
Tokyo	214.72-215.38	215.01-215.27	1½-1¼pr	4½-4pr
Vienna	20.554-20.621	20.601-20.621	¾-¼pr	2-2¾pr
Zurich	2.3651-2.3744	2.3718-2.3744	1½-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4501-1.4511
Austria	12.19-12.20
Belgium (Com)	35.72-35.77
Canada	1.4156-1.4161
Denmark	6.5959-6.5979
France	5.8005-5.8025
Germany	1.7330-1.7335
Hong Kong	7.7307-7.7317
Ireland	1.5029-1.5069
Italy	1697.0-1698.0
Japan	127.28-127.38
Malaysia	3.4850-3.4950
Netherlands	1.9530-1.9535
Norway	7.0480-7.0490
Portugal	176.80-177.00
Singapore	1.6025-1.6040
Spain	146.28-146.36
Sweden	7.5616-7.5666
Switzerland	1.4055-1.4065

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6820-1.6897
Australia dollar	2.4464-2.4489
Bahrain dinar	0.6315-0.6455
*Brazil real**	*1.8693-1.8739*
China yuan	13.875-14.175
Cyprus pound	0.850-0.869
Finland markka	8.7575-8.8985
Greece drachma	453.75-464.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.0456-13.0511
India rupee	62.87-64.17
Indonesia rupiah	*unq*
Kuwait dinar KD	0.508-0.519
Malaysia ringgit	5.8809-5.8996
New Zealand dollar	2.7087-2.7125
Pakistan rupee	73.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.095-6.230
Singapore dollar	2.7042-2.7076
S Africa rand (com)	*8.144-8.313*
U A E dirham	6.150-6.286

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	617	Legal & Gn	2,100
ASDA Gp	9,900	Lloyds TSB	8,900
Abbey Ntl	2,300	LucasVarity	3,400
Allnce & Leic	1,700	Marks Spr	3,400
Allied Dom	2,000	NatWst Bk	3,300
AB Foods	1,500	Nat Grid	3,300
BAA	2,000	Nat Power	2,800
BAT Inds	4,300	Next	1,400
BG	14,000	Norwich Un	3,800
BOC	1,300	Orange	4,500
BP	20,700	P & O	2,200
BSkyB	1,600	Pearson	1,400
BTR	8,000	PowerGen	2,100
BT	30,000	Prudential	4,400
Bk of Scot	2,300	RMC	322
Barclays	3,500	Railtrack	605
Bass	1,800	Rank Group	3,900
Billiton	2,900	Reckitt Col	2,800
Blue Circle	2,000	Reed Intl	2,000
Boots	3,300	Rentokil	4,200
BAe	642	Reuters	3,200
BA	3,800	Rio Tinto	3,800
British Land	528	Rolls Royce	2,700
Brit Steel	12,600	Royal & Sun	3,000
Cable Wire	3,200	Royal Bk Sct	2,700
Cadbury	2,000	Safeway	22,800
Carlton Cms	1,900	Sainsbury	6,000
Centrica	7,900	Schroders	558
Cm Union	1,300	Scot & New	2,100
Dixons	998	Scot Power	2,900
EMI	1,700	Svrn Trent	990
Energy Gp	1,200	Shell Trans	14,200
Enterpr Oil	9,000	Siebe	1,600
GKN	844	SmKl Bch	11,000
GRE	2,700	Smiths Inds	1,100
GUS	1,800	Std Chard	2,300
Gen Acc	618	Sun Life	428
Gen Elec	4,200	TI Gp	2,100
Glaxo Well	4,800	Tesco	6,700
Granada	1,700	Thames W	1,000
Grand Met	4,600	Tomkins	2,700
Guinness	2,400	Unilever	10,200
HSBC	3,300	Utd Utilities	1,200
Halifax	3,100	Utd News	995
Hays	829	Vodafone	19,100
ICI	1,600	Whitbread	1,300
Kingfisher	1,600	Williams	4,400
LASMO	2,500	Wolseley	1,300
Ladbroke	3,100	Woolwich	2,400
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	2,100

WALL STREET

	Nov 19 midday	Nov 18 close
AMP Inc	41⅞	42⅛
AMR Corp	116⅞	116⅝
AT & T	52½	52⅞
Abbott Labs	64⅝	64½
Advanced Micro	22½	21⅞
Aetna Life	79⅝	78⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	59¼	60⅛
Air Prod & Chem	76⅝	76¼
AirTouch Comm	38½	38⅝
Albertson's	37½	37¼
Alcan Aluminm	27⅞	28
Allied Signal	36¼	36⅝
Alum Co of Am	69½	69¼
Amerada Hess	58⅞	59¼
Amer El Power	47⅞	47½
Amer Express	77¼	78⅛
Amer Genl Corp	51⅝	51½
Amer Home Pr	71⅝	70½
Amer Intl	102¼	101⅞
Amer Stores	20⅛	19½
Amer Standard	39⅝	39¼
Ameritech	76½	75½
Amgen	51⅞	52½
Amoco	92⅝	92½
Andrew Corp	25⅝	25⅞
Anheuser-Busch	43½	43⅝
Apple Computer	18¼	18⅛
Archer Daniels	21⅞	21⅞
Armco	5⅛	5½
Armstrng Wrld	67½	67⅝
Asarco	25⅝	25½
Atl Richfield	82⅞	81½
Atmel Corp	24⅝	24½
Auto Data Pro	56½	55⅝
Avery Dennison	40⅝	40
Avon Products	56½	57⅛
Baker Hughes	43⅝	43½
Baltim Gas & El	28⅛	28¼
Banc One	53⅝	52⅞
BankAmerica	73½	72½
Bank of NY	49½	49½
Bankers Tr NY	117⅞	117
Barnett Banks	70¼	70
Bausch & Lomb	38⅞	39½
Baxter Intl	47⅛	46⅞
Becton Dicknsn	48⅛	49¼
Bell Atlantic	87	86⅝
BellSouth	53⅝	53½
Black & Decker	37⅛	37⅛
Block (H&R)	39⅝	38¼
Boeing	49⅞	49½
Boise Cascade	35⅞	35½
Boston Scien	52½	54½
Bristol Myrs Sq	93⅝	91⅞
Browning Ferris	35½	35¼
Brunswick	33½	33¼
Burlington Nthn	93	93½
CMS Energy Corp	37⅛	36½
CPC Intl	100½	101
CSX	54¼	53⅝
Campbell Soup	52⅞	52⅛
Carolina Pwr	36⅛	36½
Case Corp	63½	61
Caterpillar	46½	46½
Central & SW	22⅛	22⅛
Champion Intl	55⅛	55⅞
Chase Manhat	109⅝	107⅛
Chevron Corp	82⅞	82⅛
Chrysler	33⅝	33⅞
Chubb Corp	68⅞	68
Cigna Corp	166½	164⅛
Citicorp	123½	122⅛
Clorox	76½	79¼
Coastal Corp	60¼	60⅞
Coca Cola	60½	59½
Coca Cola Ent	30⅛	30⅛
Colgate-Palm	64¼	63⅞
Columbia Gas	70⅝	70½
Columbia/HCA	29⅞	29¼
Compaq Comp	65⅝	65⅜
Comp Ass Intl	73⅝	72⅛
Conagra	34¼	34¼
Cons Edison	36½	36⅛
Cons Nat Gas	58⅛	57½
Cooper Inds	50½	50½
Corestates	77½	79
Corning Inc	42⅛	42½
C'wide Credit	38	37½
Crestar Finl	49⅞	49¼
Crown Cork	46⅛	46⅛
Dana Corp	46¼	46⅛
Dayton Hudson	66½	66¼
Deere	53⅝	52½
Delta Air Lines	104	103⅞
Deluxe Corp	35½	35⅛
Digital Equip	48⅛	48⅛
Dillard Dept St	38	37⅞
Disney (Walt)	89⅞	89½
Dominion Res	38⅛	37½
Donelley (RR)	35⅛	34⅞
Dover Corp	67⅛	67¼
Dow Chemical	97½	97⅛
Dow Jones	48	48½
Dresser	38½	37⅞
Duke Power	50½	50¼
Dun & Bradstreet	28½	27⅞
Du Pont	60⅞	60⅛
Eastman Chem	60½	60½
Eastman Kodak	60⅛	60½
Eaton Corp	94½	93⅞
Edison Intl	25⅞	25⅞
Elect Data Sys	38⅛	38½
Emerson Elec	53	51⅞
Engelhard Corp	18¼	18
Enron Corp	37½	36⅞
Entergy	24½	24⅛
Ethyl Corp	8⅞	8½
Exxon	62⅛	62⅛
FMC Corp	73½	72½
FPL Group	54⅛	53⅞
Federal Express	61⅞	62⅞
Fifth Third Banc	68	67¼
Fleet Finl Grp	65½	64½
Fluor Corp	36⅛	36⅞
Ford Motor	43½	43⅛
Fort James	38⅞	38⅞
Fortune Brands	34½	34½
Franklin Res	91¼	91½
GTE Corp	47½	48
Gannett	54⅞	54½
Gap Inc Del	56⅛	54½
Gateway 2000	28½	28⅛
Gen Dynamics	83⅛	83⅛
Gen Electric	70⅛	69⅞
Gen Mills	73½	73¼
Gen Motors	61⅞	61½
Gen Reinsurance	202½	199⅞
Gen Signal	40½	40⅞
Genuine Parts	31½	31⅞
Georgia Pac	86⅛	87¼
Gillette	90½	90⅛
Glaxo Wellc ADR	42½	41⅞
Goodrich (BF)	44⅛	44⅛
Goodyear Tire	61½	62⅛
Great Lakes	43⅞	45
Halliburton	54½	55
Harcourt General	52⅛	52⅛
Heinz (HJ)	49½	50
Hercules	47½	47¼
Hershey Foods	59½	58
Hewlett Packard	61½	61½
Hilton Hotels	31⅞	31½
Home Depot	56⅞	56⅛
Homestake Mng	11¼	11½
Honeywell	69⅞	69⅞
Household Intl	115⅞	115½
Houston Inds	22⅛	22½
Humana	22⅛	22⅛
ITT Corp	75⅛	75½
Ikon Office	30¼	29⅞
Illinois Tool	52½	51½
Illinova	22	22
INCO	17⅞	18½
Ingersoll Rand	38⅛	38⅛
Inland Steel	19¼	20
Intel Corp	79⅛	78¼
IBM	103⅛	102⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	47½	47½
Intl Paper	46⅞	47½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	63⅞	63
Kellogg	46⅛	45½
Kerr-McGee	68	67⅞
Kimberly-Clark	51⅞	50⅝
Kmart	12⅞	12⅞
Knight-Ridder	59½	59½
Lilly (Eli)	64⅞	66¼
Limited Inc	24⅛	24
Lincoln Nat	70⅛	69½
Loews	49½	49¼
Liz Claiborne	50⅝	50⅛
Lockheed Martin	92⅞	92¼
Louisiana Pac	20½	20⅛
MCI Comm	42⅞	42½
Manpower Inc	36½	36⅛
Marriott Int	71¼	70⅞
Marsh & McLnn	72½	71⅞
Masco Corp	46⅛	46½
May Dept St	55½	54⅞
Maytag Corp	31½	31½
McDonalds	47⅛	46⅞
McGraw Hill	68⅛	67⅞
Mead Corp	63½	63
Meditrust Corp	37⅛	37½
Medtronic	46½	46⅞
Mellon Bk	54½	52½
Merck Inc	91½	90½
Mercury Fin	1¼	1
Merrill Lynch	68⅛	66⅛
Microsoft	134	134
Minnesota Mine	94¼	94½
Mirage Resorts	24½	24¼
Mobil Corp	75½	75⅛
Monsanto	43⅝	42½
Morgan (JP)	113⅛	111⅞
Motorola Inc	64½	63⅞
Mylan Labs	22⅞	23½
Natl Semi	34	33⅞
Natl Service Ind	45½	45⅛
Navistar Int	22½	22
NY Times A	59⅛	58⅛
Newmont Mng	31½	31½
Nike B	50⅞	50½
NL Industries	16½	16⅞
Nordstrom	60½	60⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	31½	30½
Nthn State Pwr	53¼	53½
Norwest Corp	33⅞	33½
Occidental Pet	28½	28¼
Oracle	34½	34⅛
Oryx Energy Co	29⅞	29½
Owens Corning	35½	35⅞
PPG Industries	54⅞	55⅛
PMI Group	66¼	66¼
PNC Bank	50½	49½
PP&L Res	22⅞	22½
Paccar Inc	48½	48½
Pacificorp	22⅛	22½
Pac Enterprises	33½	33½
Pall Corp	21½	21
Parker Hannifin	45⅛	44⅞
Peco Energy	24	23½
Penney (JC)	64⅞	65
Pennzoil	66⅛	65⅛
Pepsico	37⅛	38⅛
Pfizer	71¼	69½
Pharm & Upjhn	32⅛	32
Phelps Dodge	69⅛	69⅛
Philip Morris	42½	42⅛
Phillips Pet	49⅞	49½
Pitney Bowes	83	82⅛
Polaroid	42⅛	42¼
Procter & Gmbl	74⅞	73¼
Providian	41½	41⅛
Pub Serv E & G	27⅞	27⅛
Quaker Oats	52⅛	52¼
Ralston Purina	88⅛	87½
Raychem Corp	93⅛	92⅛
Raytheon	49⅞	50
Reebok Intl	41	40¼
Reliastar Fin	39½	39⅛
Reynolds Metals	57⅛	57½
Rockwell Intl	45⅞	45⅞
Rohm & Haas	91½	92⅛
Royal Dutch	53⅛	52½
Rubbermaid	23½	23⅞
SBC Comms	70⅛	69½
Safeco Corp	46¼	47
St Paul's Cos	80⅛	79¼
Salomon Inc	82⅞	81½
Sara Lee Corp	53⅛	53⅞
Schering Plough	60	59⅛
Schlumberger	83½	83¼
Seagram	33	33½
Sears Roebuck	46½	46⅞
Shell Trans	42¼	42⅛
Sherwin Wlms	28⅛	28½
Silicon Graphics	13⅞	13½
Snap-On-Tools	43⅛	43¼
Southern Co	22⅞	22⅛
Southtrust	51¼	51¼
Sprint Corp	58⅛	58⅛
Stanley Works	42½	42½
Sun Company	43	42⅞
Sun Microsys	35½	35⅛
Suntrust	68¼	67⅞
Supervalu	38⅛	38½
Synovus Fin	23⅛	23½
Sysco Corp	42	41⅞
TRW Inc	58⅛	57⅞
TIG Hldgs	32½	33⅛
Tandy Corp	44⅞	44
Temple Inland	59½	59½
Tenet Healthcare	30½	30⅛
Tenneco	43⅛	43⅞
Texaco	58⅛	58½
Texas Inst	100	98½
Texas Utilities	37⅛	37⅛
Textron	57½	56½
Thermo Elect	37⅞	37⅛
Time Warner	60⅛	60¼
Times-Mirror A	57½	57½
Timken	34½	34⅞
Torchmark	39½	39½
Toys R Us	34⅛	34
Transamerica	108	107⅛
Travelers	73½	72⅛
Tribune	58⅛	59¼
UST Inc	30⅛	30¼
US Bancorp	105½	104½
UAL	83½	85
Unitrin	62½	62½
US Inds	25⅞	25⅞
US West Comm	43⅞	43½
US West Media	28½	28½
USAirways Group	48¼	47⅞
USX Marathon	36⅛	35⅞
Unicom	28⅞	28½
Unilever NY	58½	57½
Union Camp	57½	57⅛
Union Carbide	45⅛	44½
Union Pacific	58⅛	59½
Unisys Corp	14¼	14¼
USF&G Corp	20⅛	19⅞
United Tech	72⅞	73⅞
Unocal Corp	41⅛	41⅛
VF Corp	92½	92⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	39⅞	39¼
Warner-Lambert	139⅞	137⅞
Waste Mngmt	24⅛	24
Wells Fargo	288⅞	288
Westinghouse El	29⅛	29⅛
Weyerhaeuser	52⅛	52½
Whirlpool	54½	55½
Whitman	25⅛	25½
Winn Dixie	39	38⅞
Witco Corp	43½	43⅛
Woolworth	19⅞	21
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	75⅞	75¼
Xerox	75½	76⅛
Xilinx Inc	33½	33⅛

هكذا من الأصل

Time for a long-term strategy to emerge

Government talks with unions and employers are key to a coherent economic policy, says **John Grieve Smith**

Tony Blair has likened the government of the UK to running a company. The analogy can be misleading but is highly relevant in one respect. The day-to-day management of the UK economy needs to be guided by a longer-term strategy that sets out the Government's economic objectives and the policies to achieve them. Formulating a strategy can reveal embarrassing contradictions in different areas of policy; but the resolution of these is a major reason for the exercise. At present, economic policy is made up of sometimes conflicting initiatives, without any apparent overall strategy.

A key government objective is to tackle unemployment. But there is an obvious inconsistency here between their supply and demand side policies. On the one hand, they have emphasised the importance of supply side measures, such as education and training, or Welfare to Work, to get people into work. On the other, they have adopted a more restrictive approach to demand management than their predecessors, which will limit the demand for labour. They have given the Bank of England independence to determine interest rates, guided only by an inflation target, with no mention of an output or unemployment objective. This is bound to set a bias towards a high interest rate, and hence exchange rate, regime. And there are certainly no signs of any compensatory loosening of fiscal policy. Both the Bank and the Treasury are concerned that unemployment should not fall any lower for fear of setting up inflationary wage pressures.

What then is the Government hoping to achieve from its Welfare to Work measures? We are in danger of repeating the US pattern of churning people into and out of low-paid jobs. How does that fit in with a minimum wage?

The Prime Minister extols the virtues of flexible labour markets, but at the same time emphasises the need for more education and training. But the major incubus on producing more skilled workers has been the high level of unemployment and the growth of the "hire and fire" mentality. Development of a skilled labour force depends on a strong enough demand for labour and sufficient stability of employment to give companies the incentive to invest in training their workforce.

The Chancellor repeatedly emphasises the importance of investment. Investment in new capacity, however, depends on the outlook for sales both at home and abroad. At the moment the Government's macroeconomic policy stance suggests that business should be cautious about the future growth of home demand. As far as exports are concerned, the overvaluation of sterling and the danger that this will continue is deterring British or foreign firms from investing in extra capacity in the UK for export markets. Indeed the current issue in many firms is whether to close export capacity. There is little point in the Government exhorting firms to "prepare" for the entry to EMU when no one has any idea whether we might go in at DM2.95 or DM2.25 to the pound. For industry the really important "preparation" is concerned with planning sales and investment. A high interest rate/exchange rate policy for the next few years is totally at odds with any industrially successful entry to EMU.

The main objective of economic strategy should be to combine a steady growth of home and export demand with the necessary supply side measures to encourage investment in new capacity and increase the skilled labour force. Whatever the formal division of responsibilities, monetary and fiscal policy need to be viewed together to achieve this aim. A strategy to reduce unemployment without inflation must also consider the need for pay restraint in the private sector, alongside public sector pay policy and the minimum wage.

Formulating a more coherent economic strategy is *not* just a question of the policies themselves, but also people's reactions to them. Will firms step up their investment and training? Will unions moderate their pay demands? There is a need for systematic discussion and consultation with employers' organisations and trade unions in formulating policy — not just selling them policies once these have been determined. It is difficult to see why such consultation should apparently be regarded as outmoded. Piecemeal consultation with particular interest groups and selected individuals is much more likely to lead to favouritism or corruption than open and regular consultation with representative bodies. The Budget Green Paper may not be an appropriate vehicle for discussing the full range of economic policy, but an announcement that the Government is setting up the machinery to discuss and formulate a general strategy with employers and unions would be a valuable step forward.

☐ *John Grieve Smith is author of* Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed *(Macmillan 1997).*

Predators eye UK's remaining independent fund managers

European asset management is set to boom, say **Richard Miles** and **Jon Ashworth**

Stephen Zimmerman, left, Carol Galley and Hugh Stevenson, the trio who run MAM, have taken the City by surprise

When Mercury Asset Management announced its interim results on November 6, Hugh Stevenson, the chairman, gave no hint of the momentous deal that was in the offing. Yet we now know that he had already begun detailed negotiations with Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street's biggest banks.

Indeed, yesterday's disclosure of Merrill Lynch's friendly £3.1 billion offer for MAM took everyone by surprise. In spite of more two years of speculation over the future of the UK's leading fund manager, dealers did not even get a whiff of the acquisition. City analysts were said to be so stunned that they posed not a single question to the management of the two companies when formally told of the deal yesterday morning.

From MAM's point of view, this appears to be an outstanding deal. Coming at a time when the one-time darling of the City was starting to look a bit tarnished — the performance of its main pooled pension fund has been heavily criticised in recent months — an acquisiton price that equates to a 32 per cent premium on Tuesday's closing share price must seem like manna from heaven.

And amid accelerating consolidation in financial services, the deal comes with *no* redundancies and a pledge from Merrill Lynch that MAM will be allowed to keep its independence when making investment decisions, and its own name in the UK. This attitude is in marked contrast to Merrill's 1995 takeover of Smith New Court, the UK stockbroker, when it dropped the old English name, much to the consternation of some City old-timers.

Quite whether the deal is such good value for Merrill Lynch remains a moot point. Many City analysts believe that the price is excessive, particularly when the world's stock markets are going through a patch of distinct volatility. Only two or three weeks ago, David Komansky, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch, gave warning that the markets had much further to fall, perhaps up to 15 per cent.

On a funds basis, the picture is more positive. Merrill Lynch is paying a price equivalent to 3 per cent of the funds under management, comparing unfavourably to the 1.9 per cent that NatWest paid for Gartmore, though it looks good against the 4.2 per cent that Commerzbank paid for Jupiter Tyndall. Dealers speculated last night that NatWest may now hive off Gartmore to unlock some of the hidden value in the fund manager.

"Merrill Lynch faces a tall order," said Robin Down, a financial analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett. According to Mr Down, the terms of the deal mean a 4 per cent return on equity for the US investment bank, against a target of 9 or 10 per cent. "That means MAM has to double funds under management, or double its profitability," he said.

Merrill Lynch argues, however, that the whole deal will add up to more than the sum of the parts. The combined strengths of the two — Merrill's capital and distribution network, MAM's investment management track record and client base — should boost annual growth. In one bound, Merrill Lynch has leapt to become the third-biggest asset manager in the world with combined assets of $450 billion (£266 billion), behind Fidelity and Axa.

> ❛ MAM has to double funds under management or double profitability ❜

Asset management is particularly attractive to Merrill Lynch for two principal reasons. First, the stability of recurring fee income offsets the volality in revenues from investment banking. Second, asset management will be *the* growth sector in Europe over the next decade as governments withdraw welfare benefits and individuals are forced to provide for their own retirement.

Inevitably, the City's eyes will now focus on the UK fund managers that have clung on to their independence: Schroders, M&G, Perpetual and a handful of smaller players. Arthur Zeikel, president and chief executive officer of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, made it plain yesterday that the company had held informal talks with just about everyone in the field, both in the UK and on the Continent. "After the most exhaustive analysis, we decided Mercury was the best strategic fit," he said.

But there are plenty more predators out there. Several years ago, Morgan Stanley attempted, unsuccessfully, to acquire SG Warburg when the UK bank still owned MAM. Even with its recently announced $21 billion merger with Dean Witter, Morgan Stanley is said to be still interested in expanding its European asset management business. Closer to home, Halifax and Barclays have both made no secret of their desire to acquire a fund manager.

Rival UK fund management groups were treading a cautious line yesterday. M&G, Britain's oldest unit trust manager, with more than 750,000 customers and £18 billion under management, was saying little ahead of the publication of its full-year results next Thursday. The group said it would not be appropriate to comment on market developments ahead of the results, although it would be talking about its place in the industry when the numbers come out.

Once the giant of the unit trust and Pep industry, M&G has been hit by a run of poor performance, which has provoked an exodus of private investors. It recently unveiled a planned shake-up of its range of funds, merging some, and changing the names of others, in the hope of putting things back on track. In the meantime, it is perceived as vulnerable.

Perpetual, the UK's largest provider of Peps, expressed concern this week about the Government's tinkering with private savings, and the proposed individual savings account (Isa) in particular. It was quoted at saying that a negative enough scenario could even push it into a merger, although this line was moderated yesterday. What the group *meant* to say was that it would be considering a range of options, of which a merger would be the definite last resort.

Perpetual thinks that the MAM-Merrill tie-up will inevitably lead to greater pressure for consolidation in the UK fund management industry — in the same way that merger mania has broken out among the Big Six accounting firms. Comparisons can be drawn with America, where a larger market share is being divided between a smaller number of product providers. A spokesman said: "You've got to be big to play big."

In the UK, the market in Peps and pensions is dominated by perhaps no more than six players on either side — mimicking the trend in America over the past ten years. Pressure for further consolidation must intensify. Perpetual saw funds under management rise 33 per cent to £8 billion in the year to September 30, although net new business was £300 million down on last year, pointing to the underlying competitive pressures facing the industry.

Travel agents in dogfight with cut-price BA

Anyone passing through Earls Court in London this week would have wondered whether they were hallucinating. Exotic costumes, funny hats and fashionable clouds of smog — all part of the fun at that annual travel industry shindig, World Travel Market (WTM).

More than 10,000 senior travel industry representatives attended the first two days of WTM, a 76 per cent increase on last year. Some 5,000 exhibitors from 158 countries were eager to tout their wares, amid predictions that the travel industry is on course to create 100 million jobs across the globe in the next ten years.

The buoyant mood was captured yesterday at the Singapore stand, where Yeo Khee Leng, chief executive-elect of the newly renamed Singapore Tourism Board, unveiled the latest visitor arrival numbers from the UK — up 12 per cent in the first nine months of the year. The Singapore dollar is cheaper than it was. Even the smog has cleared.

Neighbouring stands, including Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, were happily dispensing bonhomie and brochures — trying to forget the damage inflicted by a disastrous combination of bush fires and tumbling currencies. Cheap baht and ringgits mean good deals for British travellers, but have done nothing for marketing budgets.

But the lasting topic of conversation was not the tragic events in Luxor, nor Stena and P&O, but this week's all-out assault by British Airways on UK travel agents. On what the industry is calling BA's "Black Monday", it emerged that BA was setting up a low-cost carrier out of Stansted, selling direct to the public and cutting travel agents out of the loop. All but missed in the confusion was a press release headlined: "New Reward Scheme For Travel Agents". Buried inside was the news that BA is to cut commission on international tickets sold by travel agents in the UK to 7 per cent — down from 9 per cent on international flights and 7.5 per cent on domestic flights.

Action in America is even more drastic. Travel agents selling Concorde and First Class see their commission halved from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. On Club, the rate falls from 10 per cent to 7 per cent. Agents who sell tickets in sufficient quantities could end up better off under the new BA reward scheme, but the news has gone down like the proverbial lead balloon.

Competitors continued to react with fury yesterday to BA's entry into the low-cost market, with EasyJet taking damning full-page advertisements in the national press. The carrier said BA's Operation Blue Sky had the appearance of "a textbook case of abuse of dominant position", and called on the European Commission to take action.

Reaction among travel agents to the cut in commission was even more hostile. The Association of British Travel Agencies (ABTA) said BA risked alienating its distribution network. Clive Green, an independent agent in southwest London, said the move was "another nail in the coffin" for travel agents.

BA says commission rates have remained the same for 20 years, but agents are unimpressed. There is a risk that many will drop BA in favour of more lucrative competitiors, inflicting further long-term financial damage. BA's shares slid 8p to 555p yesterday, well off their peak of 760p in May.

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lyons roar

WHEN Howard Hodgson, one-time undertaker superstar, was turfed out of Ronson, the lighter people, this summer, much was made of Albion, a 17 per cent shareholder that seems to be pulling many of the strings there. Ronson is now in bid talks with unnamed parties, even if the share price is sinking fast. Company sources say they see no sign of the familiar Hodgson dorsal fin in the water.

But who is behind Albion, which has a director on the Ronson board? None other, it seems, than Jack Lyons, the disgraced financier, and his son Jonathon. Lyons *père*, *Sir* Jack until the Guinness affair, is about to receive his second 15 minutes of fame when the Guinness report finally appears next week.

In July Albion refused a 26p-a-share offer for its stake from Hodgson. The shares are now 12p. Funny coincidence the first: the chairman of Ronson, Shaun Dowling, used to work for Guinness and crossed swords with Lyons then. If no offer for the company at this price emerges, and I would advise shareholders not to hold their breath, Albion always has the option of mounting a bid itself at an even lower price, which would not please those institutions who have loyally stuck with the group.

Funny coincidence the second: you would have thought, given who else fell from grace during the Guinness affair, that Lyons would have learned to avoid anything to do with the name Ronson.

"What I'd really like is for Merrill Lynch to bid for my company"

☐ *HORROR of horrors for Newcastle United. The future of the club is in the hands of its worst enemy. Now that "The Toon", as I understand they call it, is having to change the plans for its new football stadium, expanding the old one instead of building a new one on a park in the middle of Newcastle, it needs to persuade the city council which approved the old scheme to allow the new one.*

But because of laws on conflicts of interest, no councillor who owns Newcastle shares or a season ticket can vote. So the key council meeting will be chaired by the deputy leader, Don Price, who is a Sunderland fan. As, strangely enough, is Sir Terence Harrison, Newcastle's chairman.

In memory

THE memorial service for Pat O'Reilly, a mainstay of Charterhouse Tilney and before that Panmure Gordon, whose untimely death occurred this summer, is at St Etheldreda's at Ely Place, EC1, at 11.15am on December 5. Two of the three readers at the service are, appropriately, drawn from Pat's life at the centre of the Yorkshire business community. Alan Bottomley is a retired partner of solicitors Hammond Suddards and on the boards of a number of companies Pat took public. David Rhodes is chairman of Filtronic Comtek, one of Pat's companies. The third is his old colleague at Panmures, Lord McGowan. Anyone who wants to attend, contact Lorraine Woodley at Charterhouse.

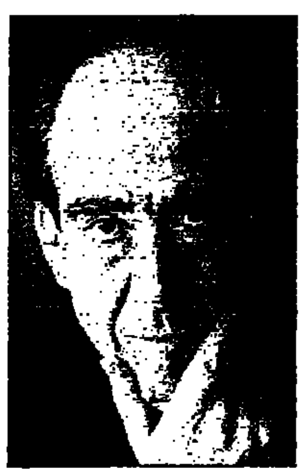
☐ *THEN there was one ... The National Grid's three-strong fleet of helicopters used to inspect the nation's power lines has suffered a couple of unfortunate incidents. In September, one clipped one of the Grid's own lines in North Wales. Bang. Last week, her sister craft had her cockpit bashed in when a refuelling bowser broke free. Crash. A close eye is now being kept on the third in the brood, still flying last time I checked.*

Checking out

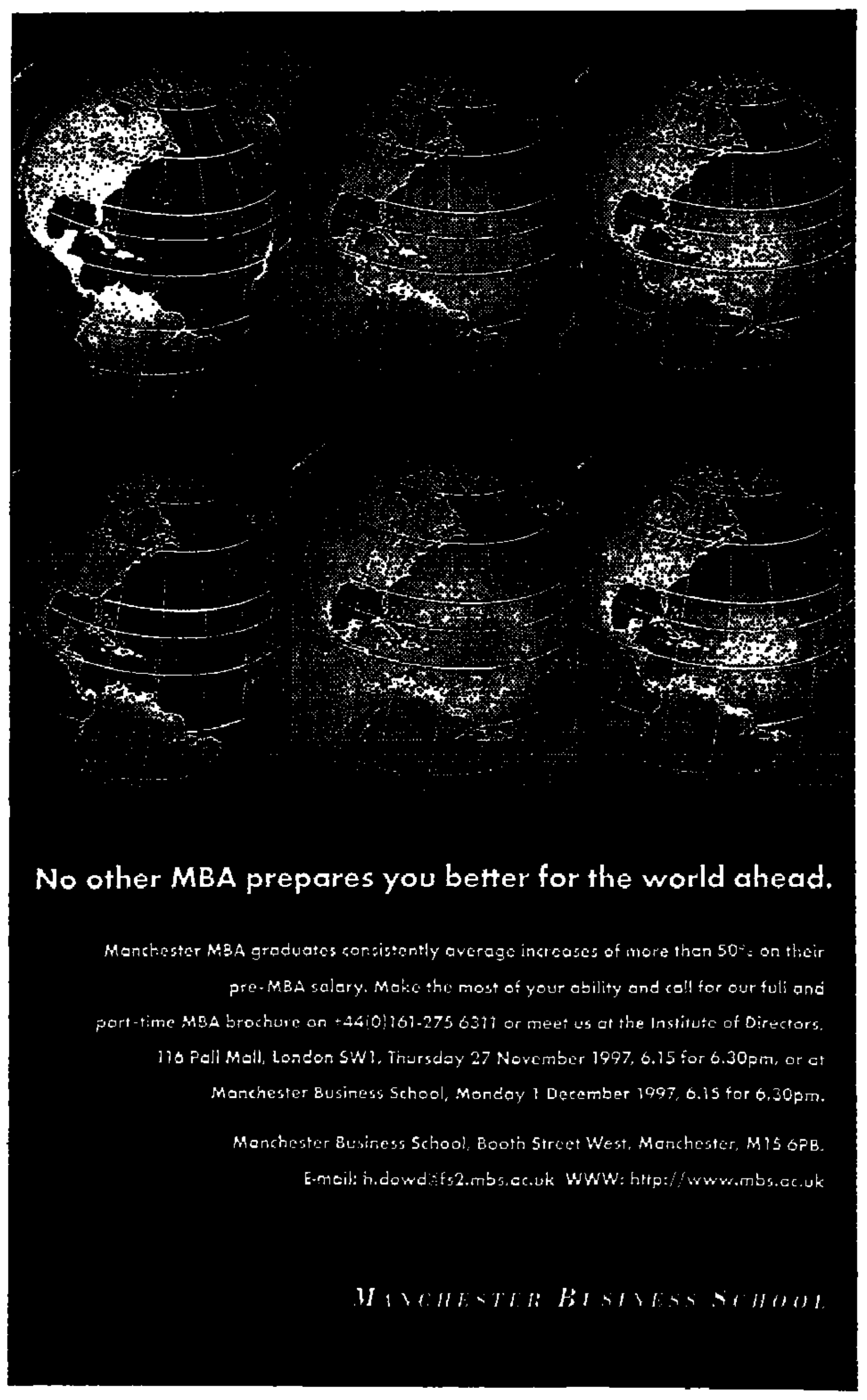
SCARCELY has the paint dried on the £40 million facelift at Claridge's than I hear that François Touzin, the general manager, is on his way. Ramón Pajares, Savoy Group managing director, has finally cleared the decks of all the hotel general managers he inherited when he was appointed at the end of 1994. Touzin is leaving to do a computer course at Harvard University. He says the parting was amicable and he plans to re-emerge in due course in the hotel business. "I have completed the restoration of the hotel, which took three years of hard work."

I hear a funny story about Touzin. Shortly after joining Claridge's, he missed a visit to the hotel by the King of Spain. A *faux pas* at the best of times, especially if your boss was born in Barcelona.

MARTIN WALLER



Ramón Pajares has lost another Savoy Group general manager



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MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

هكذا من الاصل

Power firms face bill for £115m

By Gavin Lumsden

ELECTRICITY companies have been landed a £115 million bill after discovering they are in breach of pensions legislation introduced in the spring. Coopers & Lybrand, auditors to the £15.5 billion Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS), have had to qualify the annual report while urgent meetings are held between the employers and trustees.

The revelation is the latest step in the ongoing dispute over the power companies' use of £1.2 billion pension surpluses to fund redundancy programmes and payment holidays.

Earlier this summer National Grid and National Power won an appeal to the High Court overturning rulings by the Pensions Ombudsman that they had broken scheme rules. Despite this victory they were told they should have sought trustees' approval for delaying so-called "deficiency" payments which compensate schemes for contributions lost from workers who have been forced to take early retirement.

After seeking legal advice employers and trustees have also been told that the outstanding contributions are deemed to be employer-related loans and break the 1995 Pensions Act. This was drawn up in response to the Robert Maxwell scandal and is designed to prevent employers appropriating pensioners' assets for their businesses.

Under the Act's "whistleblowing" rules the ESPS has reported the infringement to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, although it insisted the breach was unintentional and technical.

Meanwhile, David Laws, a former engineer who took National Grid to the Ombudsman, is to appeal against the High Court verdict. He hopes the latest development will force the company to fund his legal action.

Alan Petersen, chief operating officer at Meyer, welcoming the improved margins at Jewsons timber revealed in yesterday's interim results

ANTHONY UPTON

Windfall charge fails to shake upbeat Hyder

By Adam Jones

HYDER, the Welsh multi-utility company, shrugged off a £282 million windfall tax charge yesterday as it recorded a 4.6 per cent rise in interim profits and announced that 270,000 customers have already said they will take its new domestic gas service.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 rose from £100.7 million in 1996 to £105.4 million. Turnover increased from £547.7 million to £555.2 million. Including the higher than expected windfall tax charge, which is being funded by extra borrowings, Hyder made a post-tax loss of £190 million. Gearing now stands at 139 per cent and is expected to increase to more than 200 per cent next year before stabilising.

Hyder's interest cover of 3.5 comforted investors, however, and the shares were trading at 919½p in late afternoon yesterday, up 2p. Sentiment was also buoyed by advance demand for its domestic gas service. Hyder said that customers were informally agreeing to take the service at a rate of 2,500 a day, with supply beginning next April.

The lion's share of the pre-tax profits came from water supply and sewerage, which contributed £87.1 million, up from £84.1 million. The company expects to meet new targets on reducing leakage for the current year.

Graham Hawker, chief executive, said that Hyder is emerging as the only true "multi-utility", providing customers in one area with electricity, gas and water with the associated benefits of scale and geographical focus. Other combined utility companies have less geographical overlap.

A management restructuring announced at the start of October will save an extra £15 million a year by March 31, 2001. It involves combining the day-to-day administration of water, electricity and gas supply.

A provision against a restructuring charge of £35 million to £40 million will be taken by the company at the end of the year. Capital investment increased from £186 million in the first half of 1996 to £190 million.

Analysts expect Hyder to spend between £30 million and £50 million a year beefing up its infrastructure division, which is being expanded as a source of non-regulated income. Profits rose in this division from £3.3 million to £12.6 million.

Texas Instruments expands

From a Correspondent

TEXAS Instruments Inc has agreed to buy Amati Communications Corp for $395 million (£233 million) in cash, scuttling an earlier stock merger deal that the maker of high-speed modems had announced last month.

Amati, based in San Jose, California, said on October 1 that it had agreed to be acquired by Westell Technologies Inc, based in Aurora, Illinois, a maker of systems for phone line connections, for about $394 million in stock. But Texas Instruments' willingness to pay cash, and a drop in Westell's stock price, apparently made the TI offer more attractive to Amati's board of directors.

Westell will receive a $14.8 million "break-up" fee, Texas Instruments said.

With the purchase, Texas Instruments will acquire a technology that allows high-speed data to be sent over existing copper phone lines, making Internet access, high-quality video and other services more widely available.

Meyer lifts half-time performance

By Adam Jones

MEYER International reported a 29 per cent rise in interim profits yesterday and said margins at its Jewson builders' merchants chain are close to their 7 per cent target.

In the six months to the end of September, pre-tax profits were £26.2 million, up from £20.3 million. Turnover fell 3 per cent to £582.3 million for the latest first half.

The strong property-related recovery in London and South East England is not yet mirrored in the rest of Britain, said Tony Palmer, chairman of Meyer. Margins at Jewson increased to an average of 6.1 per cent after focusing on activities such as tool hire. They nudged 7 per cent at times and Alan Peterson, chief operating officer, said he would be disappointed if this could not be sustained.

The timber products division will continue to be affected by weak softwood prices.

Meyer also announced that it is selling Bouwvaria, a Dutch DIY chain, for about £4.9 million to Formido Bouwmarkten of The Netherlands. Its £318 million purchase of Harcros, a Jewsons rival, should be completed on December 1.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

EU approval for Railfreight aid

THE European Commission cleared £247.2 million in subsidies paid to Railfreight Distribution, a subsidiary of British Rail that was sold to English, Welsh and Scottish Railway. Railfreight operates international freight services via the Channel Tunnel in co-operation with SNCF, the French state-owned railway group. The Commission said that the British aid was limited and strictly intended to restore Railfreight Distribution's long-term viability and would not unduly distort fair competition.

European Union approval was also eased by the British Government's pledge to negotiate with France access conditions to the tunnel for rival operators. Several companies have expressed an interest in operating competing services via the tunnel, and the freight industry lobbying organisation, the Rail Freight Group, has argued with the British authorities that they should get similar incentives.

Century Inns climbs 19%

CENTURY INNS, owner of the Tap & Spile pub chain, posted a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £8.5 million in the year to September 30. Turnover rose 42 per cent to £34.2 million. The company's managed estate more than tripled turnover and moved operating profits up from £250,000 to £1.43 million. Earnings per share came in at 15.1p (13.3p) and a final dividend of 5.1p, payable on February 19, makes 7.4p (6.64p).

European Colour up

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the manufacturer of chemical colours and specialist coatings, yesterday said that the strength of sterling held back progress in the first half. The company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.79 million (£1.48 million) in the six months to September 30 on sales that improved to £14.06 million (£10.25 million). Earnings per share rose to 2.46p (2.41p). The interim dividend is lifted to 0.865p (0.825p).

Jarvis Porter ahead

JARVIS PORTER GROUP, the international label and packaging manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits to £7 million from £6.1 million in the half year to August 31. Comparable figures for the previous year included a £1 million reorganisation charge. Latest results include a maiden contribution from Industrial Print Group, acquired in June. Adjusted earnings per share rose to 10p from 8.6p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.5p a share from 2.35p.

Heiton raises $25m

HEITON HOLDINGS has raised $25 million (£15.1 million) in America in its first private placement of senior notes. The deal is designed to refinance the group's existing debt portfolio and provide funding for future acquisitions, it said. The portfolio's overall maturity is ten years, with the average maturity of individual instruments placed in the deal at eight years. The interest rate has been fixed at 7.14 per cent. The dollar funds have been swapped into punts to eliminate currency exposure.

Bemac jobs boost

AN engineering company in Northern Ireland is to create up to 200 jobs after signing a deal with an American electronics firm. Bemac Engineering, of Lisburn, Co Antrim, will be the centre of European operations for Electronic Manufacturing Systems, of Colorado. Bemac provides and distributes integrated electronic assemblies in high-quality metal fabrications. Michael Best, Bemac's managing director, said the deal was "a major vote of confidence in the company".

ACCOUNTANCY

Time to tackle transfer pricing

John Newman writes an open letter to Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury

John Newman says legislation need not be too rigorous

YOUR introduction to the Inland Revenue booklet on the modernisation of the transfer pricing legislation advises that transfer pricing is "one of the key international tax issues of our time". It is, indeed, but this area is too important for the mandarins at the Revenue. I wonder whether you could consider the four overriding and non-technical points in this open letter in keeping with your status in a new government charged with the task of modernising the approach to governance in the UK.

The methodology of the consultation document follows very closely that of consultative papers put forward over the past few years on international issues such as controlled foreign corporations, the treatment of offshore income under section 739, and so on.

In your introduction (and in paragraph 2.11) the statement is made that the UK's 50-year-old legislation "has generally served its purpose well". However, the paper gives no consideration as to whether there is, or has been, loss of revenue because of the scope and nature of the UK's inter-company pricing legislation, nor whether the inter-company pricing legislation has actually harmed the economic development of the UK.

Similarly, the consultative document gives neither figures nor consideration to:

☐ The number of cases taken each year on inter-company pricing grounds.
☐ The amount of alleged underpricing assessed each year.
☐ The amounts actually collected after the assessments.
☐ The average time schedule for settlements.
☐ The amounts that overseas revenue authorities have tried to assess on UK residents.
☐ The amounts involved in corresponding adjustments on settlement of international disputes.
☐ The number of cases dealt with by overseas authorities.
☐ The number of cases dealt with under advance pricing arrangements.

Those of us in the practising profession do not have the sort of statistical evidence on which consultation leading to legislation should be based. All we know are the results of the inquiries we are involved in. The Government, through the Revenue, is the only organisation with the total picture.

The fiscal climate of the European Union is one of fiscal competition. To an extent the Inland Revenue's participation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) may therefore be mis-conceived; and its leadership role in the discussions and drafting sessions in Paris not in the UK's best interests.

The Inland Revenue should be reminded that to exploit the UK's position as having one of the lowest rates of corporate taxation in Europe and the world means that inter-company pricing legislation does not have to be too rigorous. Otherwise there is a danger that the legislation will drive away business and make inbound investments unattractive.

The last area I wish to draw your attention to is perhaps the most important. The Inland Revenue paper is written in the context of readily understandable transfer of goods; accordingly price adjustments occur in the context of an economy engaged in manufacturing or extraction industries.

However, the dynamic international environment is developing fastest within service industries, whereas the trade in goods, because of industry consolidation and lower transportation costs, seems to imply declining pricing. In a transfer pricing context I believe the focus should be on services and the UK should reconsider.

To illustrate the problems take two examples; first, the cost to the UK for licence fees for software products, and secondly the cost of CDs and videos. The question has to be asked as to the criteria for the true evaluation of an arms-length price for such products: is this worthwhile and is the OECD the forum for consideration of this matter? Should we necessarily follow the US in its approach? I am afraid that in its desire to co-operate with other fiscal bodies the Inland Revenue is missing the reality of the UK economy as it moves towards the new millennium.

The author is a corporate and international tax partner with Smith & Williamson.

Tinkering with tax base a lost cause

ROBERT BRUCE

NEXT WEEK we shall see the Chancellor of the Exchequer doubtless being portrayed as having a radical tinker with some taxes in the "Green Budget". What he is unlikely to address is the much larger question — the vanishing tax base.

It is all very well shifting the emphasis on taxes like capital gains tax and inheritance tax, which can only raise a small amount of revenue and really only exist for political reasons. But a vast amount of revenue is vanishing, or shifting tax regimes, for much more hard-headed reasons. And that is what the tax authorities really have to face up to.

A good place to start would have been last week's Hardman memorial lecture run by the tax faculty of the English ICA. There, Stephen Dale, a Price Waterhouse partner based in Paris and specialising in taxation, took apart many of the easy assumptions that underlie a tax system. He looked in particular at VAT across Europe and concluded that the arguments over fiscal sovereignty were, if not nonsense, then certainly impractical. Governments should give up worrying about sovereignty because it was not going to make any difference. They no longer control the tax systems regardless of sovereignty. There is an inevitability about it. It is a simple response to tax competition. Indirect taxes must be harmonised if you want a reasonably free market. Anyone can see this. All they have to do is visit Dover and Calais. The trade in cheaper booze being brought across to this country is now at an amazing level. And the reason for it is simply tax competition. In a free market this will always be so.

There is nothing a Chancellor can do, in a free society, if the citizens of Kent choose to pay lower French taxes on their drink rather than the much higher British rates. Dale's thesis was that this trend will intensify, particularly with a common currency. "Once prices are quoted in the same currency the price differentials of all products will become more transparent," he said. He gave an example — cars are much cheaper in Denmark than in France. But at the moment, for the French to buy cars there means fiddling about in Danish crowns and exchange rate differences. Once everything is priced in Euros this will change. And the French exchequer would be the loser. Once back in France the car buyer will only pay VAT on the lower price paid in Denmark and not the high price prevailing in France. The same would happen in the UK. A VW Polo, Dale pointed out, costs about 50 per cent less in Portugal than the UK. If cars in the UK market currently cost twice as much in London than in Glasgow, no one would buy cars in London. It will be the same argument, only Europe-wide.

Changes are already occurring. One tax adviser talked about how he is dealing with a flood of French businessmen wanting to be resident in the UK where the direct tax regime is more benign. Tax-shopping because of direct tax rates has always happened. But with greater wealth and global businesses people are more mobile.

The same is happening with indirect taxation. Dale's conclusion was that indirect tax rates have to be harmonised. "Should we not all be pushing for the common system, to reduce costs on business, to simplify the VAT system," he concluded. "If this means formally conceding that member states have lost their fiscal sovereignty, which as I have tried to show is already the case, is this not a price that we must be prepared to pay to remain competitive?".

This is a world far removed from the tradition of a Chancellor sticking tuppence on a pint and knowing what revenue it will bring in. And events this week in Finland, of all unlikely places, will make the task harder. In Turku the OECD is holding a conference on "dismantling the barriers to global electronic commerce". The aim is to forward proposals that go on to a conference at ministerial level in Ottawa next October, with the aim of "achieving consensus among business, government and citizens". It is all likely to be harder than that. Take this comment from the background papers: "Whatever the solution adopted, the taxation of e-commerce should be relatively simple, should facilitate voluntary compliance and should not unnecessarily hinder the development of e-commerce." Hardened tax professsionals growl comments at this point about pigs flying. But the tax could be simple. The world is opening up and as a result governments are losing their tax powers. "Governments," as one adviser put it, "will just have to tax wherever and whenever they can. That is what the airport tax is all about." And the taxpayers will have to be adept at using their resulting freedoms.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In search of twinkle toes

AMID the somewhat bland proposals for yet again overhauling the way the English ICA runs itself, there is one proposal which could provide great amusement. It has been decided that the current system of the President chairing the council meetings is less than properly accountable. So instead "an impartial chairman" is to be appointed.

According to the current president, Chris Laine, the idea is to have a post along the lines of the Speaker of the House of Commons. "A sort of Betty Boothroyd," he suggested. It is understood that a search is on for any council member whose career started as a dancer with shapely legs.

Vanishing VAT

STEPHEN DALE, the Price Waterhouse partner who gave this year's Hardman memorial tax lecture, revealed some remarkable powers of detective work.

He was talking about the huge amount of VAT fraud across the EU. Dale was called in to investigate one case involving a company exporting disk drives. Its largest UK customer was based in Liverpool and Dale spent some time, as good auditors always do, perusing the files. He looked at the company's VAT number, which looked legitimate but seemed vaguely familiar. Further research revealed that it was the VAT number of British Telecom. The disk drives were being "delivered" to the UK but were being sold on the French black market. No wonder France is estimated, said Dale, to lose 5 per cent of its possible VAT revenue.

Racing certainty

THE final furlong of this week's press conference to announce reforms at the English ICA was purgatory for Dame Sheila Masters, its vigorous vice-president.

One of her racehorses, Gemma's Wager, was running in the 2.30 at Newton Abbot. "And it's got a good chance of winning", she said as she swept from the room in search of a phone after the questioning was over. Sadly for Dame Sheila it was unplaced and some nag called Luke Warm won, which might also sum up the membership's likely reaction to the reform proposals.

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FKI aims to cut gearing to enable acquisitions

By Martin Barrow

FKI, the industrial products group, expects strong cash generation and the proceeds from disposals to reduce gearing below 60 per cent in the short term, leaving the company well placed to make selective acquisitions to enhance continuing operations.

The company announced that it had agreed the sale of the bulk of its automotive business to America's Trident Automotive for £92.5 million last week. FKI has switched its focus to higher-margin businesses after the £131 million cash takeover of Bridon, the wire rope manufacturer and distributor, in August.

The financial impact of the Bridon takeover was to lift gearing to 114 per cent at the end of August before it eased slightly to 91 per cent at the end of September.

Jeff Whalley, chairman, yesterday said the selective acquisition and divestment programme had made significant progress in focusing FKI's activities in three core areas of material handling, hardware and engineering. In the first half operating cashflow increased to £93.3 million, from £61 million.

The company was announcing a rise in pre-tax profits to £64 million, from £51.4 million, for the half year to September 30, on turnover that rose to £626 million, from £459 million.

Material handling, which now encompasses the Bridon businesses, contributed operating profits of £19.3 million (£17.1 million) on turnover of £174.5 million (£130.8 million). The enlarged business will be a world leader in the manufacture of lifting equipment, with annual sales of £450 million. Mr Whalley said significant progress had already been made in the reorganisation of Bridon.

Hardware contributed profits of £30.2 million (£25.3 million last time) despite a near 4 per cent downturn in housing starts in North America, its principal market. The return on sales improved to 19.7 per cent.

The engineering division earned operating profits of £20.1 million (£6.5 million) on turnover of £207.2 million (£80.5 million). The division grew significantly in 1996 with the £182.5 million purchase of Hawker Siddeley Electric Power from BTR and the £34.8 million of Marelli Motori.

Normalised earnings increased to 8.44p a share from 6.11p. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.2p a share from 3.1p. The share price remained unchanged at 188p.

The South lifts Black Arrow

Black Arrow, the office furniture and leasing group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.25 million to £2 million in the half year to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 5.56p, from 3.41p, and the interim dividend rises to 1.5p (1.2p). Sales rose to £11.7 million (£9.8 million).

Arnold Edward, chairman, said: "Our first half was heavily influenced by a very strong performance in the South. I expect trading to be rather more subdued for the remainder of the year, but I am confident of reporting much improved full-year figures."

The shares fell 1p to 95½p.

Auto firm up

European Motor Holdings, the automotive distribution and services company, said that demand for new cars is expected to stay strong for the foreseeable future. In the half year to September 30, the company's motor retail division lifted operating profits by 42 per cent, to £7.1 million. Profits from the services division fell to £300,000, from £900,000. Group pre-tax profits rose by 24 per cent, to £6.2 million. Earnings per share rose 23 per cent, to 7.9p. The interim dividend rises 13 per cent, to 2.6p.

Ferraris rises

Ferraris, the medical products and precision components group, raised pre-tax profits by 21 per cent, to £1.73 million, in the year to August 31 on sales up by 5 per cent, to £20.7 million. Earnings per share rose by 18 per cent, to 11.4p. The year's dividend rises by 14 per cent, to 3.2p, after a 2p final. Shares in Ferraris rose 3p to 119½p.

Geoffrey Tucker celebrates the acquisition at Chili's in Canary Wharf, one of the two existing locations in the UK

Celebrated to develop US brand

CELEBRATED GROUP, the AIM-listed restaurant group, has acquired the exclusive rights to develop Chili's Grill & Bar, a successful US concept, throughout the UK (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company is to acquire Restaurant House (RH), the current franchise holder and owner of the two existing Chili's outlets in Cambridge and Canary Wharf in London. To finance the deal, Celebrated is to issue Red Hot Concepts, RH's Nasdaq-quoted parent company, with 28 million shares and an option over a further six million. This will give Red Hot Concepts more than 30 per cent of voting rights in Celebrated, subject to shareholder approval. The shares closed up ½p at 11½p.

The Chili's brand, which has a southwestern American theme, is owned by Brinker International, the US group that recently granted the rights to its Macaroni Grill brand to Queensborough Holdings. Under the terms of the licence from Brinker, Celebrated has undertaken to have 11 Chili's restaurants up and running by November 2000. There are currently around 500 Chili's restaurants worldwide.

Geoffrey Tucker, chief executive of Celebrated, said the deal was a "major step in rationalising the group's operations". Earlier this month it pulled out of the roadside market by selling its AJ's Family Restaurants to Granada Group for £3 million.

Separately, the group reported a first-half operating profit of £148,000 (£287,000) from turnover up from £3.69 million to £3.96 million. Earnings per share showed a loss of 0.44p (1.33p profit), and there is no dividend.

BG signs deal to develop Russian fields

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

A CRITICAL phase in BG's multibillion-dollar oil exploration and development plans has been completed with the signing of key agreements for fields in Kazakhstan and the Caspian Sea.

The production-sharing agreements mean that BG has cleared key hurdles in its drive towards developing large oil and gasfields with international partners.

The deals, made with the Kazakh Government, open the way for the development of the giant Karachaganak field in Kazakhstan and for offshore exploration in the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea.

The Karachaganek field is expected to yield more than 2.4 billion barrels of oil and BG has said that the field will deliver 25 per cent of its global production by 2002. By the millennium the field is expected to represent 10 per cent of BG's asset value outside of Transco, its UK pipeline network.

BG will work with Agip of Italy and Texaco of the US in the Karachaganek field. Lukoil of Russia is also a smaller partner in the project. In the Caspian Sea BG is working jointly with Mobil, BP/Statoil, Shell, Total and Agip.

BG will invest a total of $2 billion (£1.25 billion) in Karachaganek over its expected lifetime of 40 years. The company will pump in $640 million (£400 million) in the first phase of the development.

David Varney, chief executive, said: "These agreements represent an important step forward for BG. The Karachaganek agreement gives BG a leading role in one of the world's largest oil and gasfields — substantially bigger than any North Sea discovery."

Newspaper group lifts profits 38%

BUOYANT economic conditions and strong growth in recruitment advertising lifted Southnews, the publisher of local newspapers in London and the Home Counties (Frank le Duc writes).

Gareth Clark, chairman, said other categories of advertising had shown improvements, too, including motors, property and local retailing. Pre-tax profit rose 38 per cent, to £3.7 million, in the six months to September 27, from £2.68 million in the same period a year ago. Turnover grew 14 per cent to £21 million (£18.4 million).

The dividend rises to 3p (2.25p), due on January 9. Earnings rose to 15.53p a share from 11.3p.

Macdonald Hotels expands cautiously

By Dominic Walsh

MACDONALD HOTELS, the Scottish hotel and resort operator, has paid £1 million for Craxton Wood Hotel near Chester and is to invest another £4 million developing the property. The hotel currently has 15 bedrooms but has planning permission for a further 50 rooms plus leisure and conference facilities.

Donald Macdonald, chief executive, said that he has no plans to become involved in the industry consolidation many observers believe is inevitable, preferring to focus instead on organic growth. He said that cautious acquisitions along the lines of the Craxton purchase would continue, provided that returns on capital of at least 20 per cent were possible. Macdonald is currently averaging 22 per cent.

In the half year to September 28 the group lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £5.6 million from turnover 30 per cent up at £24.9 million.

Macdonald improved the average room rate from £42.64 to £46.15 on occupancy down one percentage point to 67 per cent. Earnings per share rose 23 per cent to 7.12p and an interim dividend of 1.65p (1.5p) will be paid on January 5.

IMF quashes hopes for independent Asian fund

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has succeeded in killing off a proposal by Asia Pacific countries to set up an Asian rescue fund outside the auspices of the IMF (Abby Tan writes from Manila).

At the end of a two-day meeting, senior finance and central bank officials from 14 countries reaffirmed the authority of the IMF to police troubled economies and agreed to its proposals for a regional surveillance mechanism.

A communiqué issued by the deputy ministers and officials from the IMF, America, Japan and 12 other Asian countries agreed to a facility for "co-operative financing arrangements".

Under IMF supervision the member countries could contribute and ailing economies could draw upon this facility "on a case to case basis" to augment a country's reserves when IMF funds are not enough.

The communiqué also agreed to urge the IMF to organise a short-term financing scheme to help countries to combat 21st Century problems. The outcome has been a crushing blow to the pride of several Asian countries, especially Japan and Malaysia which had been vocal about an Asian fund independent of IMF supervision.

Roberto de Ocampo, Financial Secretary of the Philippines, told reporters there had been fears among officials that such an independent fund "could be used as an excuse not to make hard decisions". He added it could also provide a tempting target "for speculators to draw down significant amounts from the pool itself".

The plan for an Asian fund was strongly opposed by Michel Camdessus, IMF Managing Director. He wanted a regional surveillance mechanism to protect the Asian economy from future shocks.

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* The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

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A (and Standard)	1.03	12.36
B	0.95	11.40
C	0.86	10.32
D	0.82	9.84
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

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Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A	1.06	12.72
B	0.89	10.68
C	0.85	10.20

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS

Premier Interest Account†	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	5.85	6.01
£100,000+	5.65	5.80
£ 25,000+	5.35	5.48
£ 10,000+	4.95	5.06

†No interest is paid on balances below £10,000

Business Reserve Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£10,000+	4.80	4.89
Below £10,000	4.50	4.58

Business Call Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	4.45	4.54
£ 50,000+	4.25	4.33
£ 10,000+	3.90	3.97
£ 1,000+	3.60	3.66
Below £1,000	3.35	3.40

Clients Call Account	Half Yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£1,000,000+	5.35	5.42	5.29	5.42
£ 100,000+	5.10	5.17	5.06	5.17
£ 10,000+	4.60	4.65	4.56	4.66
£ 2,500+	3.90	3.94	3.87	3.94
Below £2,500	2.10	2.11	2.09	2.11

Treasurers Account	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.35	3.48
£10,000+	4.15	3.32
£ 5,000+	3.00	2.40
£ 500+	2.80	2.24
Below £500	1.00	0.80

Deposit Account	Half Yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£1+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

Interest rates may vary from time to time. The notice lists current rates.
Gross Rate – does not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate.
Net Rate – the rate of interest after deduction of tax at the lower rate, this is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
Gross CAR – compounded annual rate when full monthly, quarterly or half-yearly interest remains invested.
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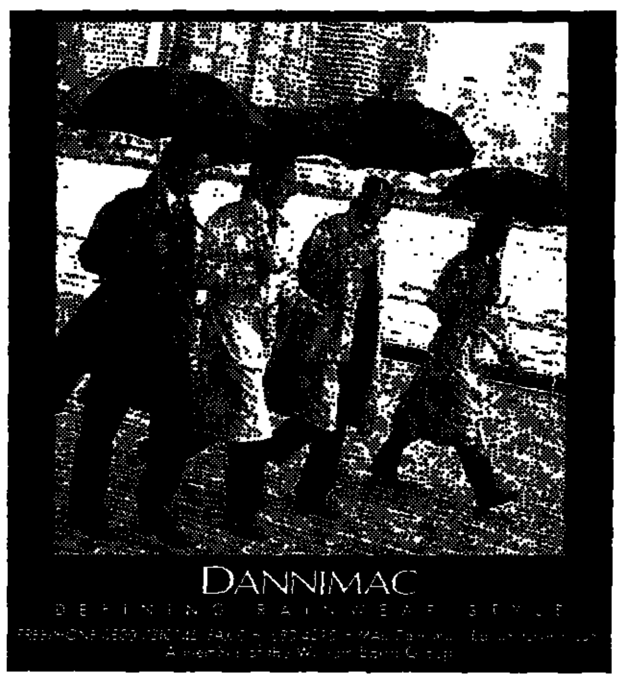
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing 0171 407 7888				
Protected Fund:				
UK Safeguard	137.77	146.81†	- 0.26	
Do NAV to Dec 19	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.39	115.91	.	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	952.80	957.56†		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	345.20	365.90†	- 3.80	1.74
UK Small Cos	76.74	82.06†	- 1.80	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	95.70	102.34		2.11
Geared UK Index	2129.72	2248.27†	- 25.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	80.33	82.90	- 0.33	
Monthly Inc	40.56	43.32†	- 0.70	8.64
International Funds				
American Gen	278.70	295.00†	- 2.20	
American Smll	252.07	268.59	- 1.70	
JC US Index	2204.43	2322.71†		4.00
European Gen	312.10	330.30	- 0.60	
European Smll	132.77	141.99	+ 0.10	
Japan Gen	105.10	111.20†	- 4.80	
Asia Pacific	*67.82*	*72.20†*	*- 0.97*	
Pacific Smll	108.54	116.07	- 3.30	
Greater China	208.15	222.62	- 2.00	
Latin America	95.08	101.68	- 0.10	
Int Growth	159.31	170.38	- 1.30	
Balanced Exempt	145.80	151.00		
Global Strategy	47.49	50.78	- 0.32	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	795.40	846.10	- 5.40	2.68
General Inc	*648.30*	*689.60*	*- 4.30*	*2.68*
UK Growth Acc	550.80	585.90	- 3.70	2.56
UK Growth Inc	348.10	370.30	- 2.50	2.56
Higher Inc Acc #	1010.00	1074.00	- 8.00	4.73
Higher Inc Inc #	518.60	551.70	- 3.90	4.73
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	228.10	240.90	- 0.20	5.72
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.99	100.33	- 0.10	5.72
Nth America	413.90	440.30	- 2.70	
Europe	421.50	448.30		0.63
Brit Excell	109.90	116.90	- 0.90	2.38
Brit Fndmtls Acc	139.20	148.00	- 0.80	4.70
Brit Fndmtls Inc	*89.30*	*95.00*	*- 0.49*	*4.70*
Global Opps	105.50	112.30	- 1.10	0.31
Balanced Acc	69.76	74.21	- 0.64	2.58
Balanced Inc	63.82	67.89	- 0.59	2.58
Japan Acc	32.62	34.70	- 1.87	.
Pac Basin Acc	273.00	290.40	- 5.00	1.64
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	140.70	149.30	+ 0.10	6.11
High Inc Equity	210.70	225.30†	- 1.50	4.47
Worldwide Bond	*265.30*	*281.40†*	*- 0.60*	*3.51*
American Growth	501.60	535.40	+ 5.70	0.31
Asian Pacific	330.00	346.00	- 6.10	0.56
Assets & Earnings	325.30	347.80†	- 2.70	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	228.70	244.60	+ 1.80	0.82
Extra Inc	42.50	45.21†	- 0.04	9.20
General	303.00	322.30	- 2.80	3.04
Global Opps	*72.90*	*77.55*	*- 0.21*	*0.41*
Japan	74.54	79.72	- 2.76	
Managed Inc	50.52	53.74†	- 0.20	4.19
Mastertrust	177.10	188.40	- 0.40	1.17
US Emerging Cos	211.10	225.80	+ 0.30	
Ethical	89.15	93.78	- 0.83	1.95
International	135.60	144.30	- 0.30	0.60
Dividend & Growth	78.11	83.10	- 0.64	4.20
Global Gwth & Sec	77.54	82.77	- 0.26	2.44
Latin America	71.68	76.26	+ 1.32	0.88

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	*855.66*	*868.60*		4.01
Investment Acc	4112.13	4174.27		
Fixed Int Inc	131.52	132.04	..	6.79
Fixed Int Acc	261.20	262.32	.	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.61	99.49†	+ 1.11	11.25
Beck Bio-Tech	38.57	41.73		
Acorn Ethical Tst	209.88	220.16		0.41
City Fin Assets	84.93	89.18†		2.97
City Fin Intl	83.63	87.82†	+ 0.73	0.06
Finsb Hsr Cap	356.07	377.73		1.65
Buckley Wrld Gth	138.09	145.37	+ 0.03	
Stag Utilities	*78.51*	*82.20†*	*- 0.14*	*4.46*
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	49.96	53.01	- 0.39	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	95.70	101.81	- 0.54	.
Dragon Growth	45.89	49.08	- 0.77	1.59
Equity High Inc	109.10	115.44	- 0.90	3.21
-do- Accum	*163.79*	*173.32*	*- 1.35*	*3.21*
Extra Income Inc	28.29	29.78	- 0.02	6.47
Extra Income Acc	32.89	34.62	- 0.03	6.47
European Gwth	76.98	81.46	- 0.05	0.15
Evergreen	33.95	36.31	- 0.22	.
General Equity	125.94	132.94	- 1.17	2.39
Japan Growth	31.97	34.01	- 1.68	
Pedigree Gwth	*76.32*	*80.76*	*- 0.78*	*1.64*
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.02	43.41†	- 0.19	1.42
-do- Accum	44.17	46.74	- 0.20	1.42
Retirement Inc #	32.44	34.51	- 0.13	5.11
Special Sits	52.45	56.40	- 0.32	2.63
UK & Overseas	63.91	67.62	- 0.51	0.58
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	78.11	81.36	- 0.50	3.68
Capital	94.98	98.93	- 0.65	2.01
High Income	*55.20*	*57.49†*	*- 0.09*	*6.56*
Top 50	68.40	71.25	- 0.51	2.05
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	*214.71*	*223.68†*	*- 0.31*	*4.31*
Long Gilt	49.19	51.20†	- 0.13	5.24
Monthly Inc Plus	57.01	59.39	- 0.03	7.54
Preference Share	54.59	56.87†	- 0.10	6.85
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	161.68	168.43†	+ 2.14	5.32
Managed Fund	80.98	84.36†	- 0.43	2.68
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.12	54.30	- 0.17	1.56
-do- Accum	62.33	64.93	- 0.22	1.56
UK & General	116.43	121.29†	- 0.52	2.32
-do- Accum	*156.02*	*162.54†*	*- 0.70*	*2.32*
UK Growth	226.92	236.40	- 0.93	1.66
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	252.00	262.53	+ 1.09	0.51
Far Eastern Gth	94.24	98.18	- 2.70	0.39
Global Bond	71.15	74.12†	+ 0.03	6.93
Japan Growth	84.21	87.73	- 4.57	
Nrth Amer Gth	293.23	305.48	- 1.72	
Oriental Growth	56.85	59.22	- 0.80	0.83
Worldwide Growth	76.23	79.41	- 0.71	0.33

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	856.10	856.10	- 3.10	2.03
-do- Accum @	1472.00	1472.00	- 6.00	2.03
Equity Income #	120.60	120.60	- 0.60	4.57
UK Tactical Allocn @	79.58	79.58	- 0.68	5.81
European @	170.40	170.40	..	0.08
Far Eastern @	*157.80*	*157.80*	*- 3.40*	..
Fixed Interest @	58.36	58.36	+ 0.03	7.33
Gilt @	96.41	96.41†	- 0.13	6.09
Global Growth @	79.86	79.86	- 0.67	0.01
Intl Bond @	48.19	48.19	+ 0.06	5.56
Japanese @	51.73	51.73†	- 1.63	
North American @	277.20	277.20	- 1.10	.
Pacific Growth @	*77.99*	*77.99†*	*- 0.67*	*0.37*
Pacific Index @	31.83	31.83†	- 0.53	3.05
UK Index @	90.39	90.39†	- 0.41	2.64
UK Recovery @	131.10	131.10†	- 0.20	1.43
UK Smaller Cos @	*179.20*	*179.20*	*- 0.30*	*1.09*
US Index @	107.30	107.30	- 0.60	0.75
European Index @	109.00	109.00	+ 0.10	1.06
Japan Index @	25.63	25.63	- 1.53	
Worldwide @	106.50	106.50†	- 0.58	1.11
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 522				
Growth	66.26	70.98	- 0.56	2.14
Far East	[illegible]	33.39	- 0.58	
North American	162.90	171.40	- 1.10	
Global	89.90	95.18	- 1.20	0.33

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Blue Chip	114.80	121.90†	- 1.10	2.47
-do- Accum	152.30	161.70†	- 1.50	2.47
Cash	100.50	100.50	.	6.74
-do- Accum *	156.20	156.20	...	6.74
Emerging Mkts	124.30	133.70	- 0.90	0.23
-do- Accum	126.10	135.60	- 0.90	0.23
European Growth	383.80	405.30	+ 0.800	0.13
-do- Accum	418.90	443.50	+ 0.800	0.13
European Income	99.03	104.70	- 0.10	3.87
-do- Accum	149.20	157.80	- 0.10	3.87
General	676.00	719.50	- 4.80	2.23
-do- Accum	1410.00	1501.00	- 9.00	2.23
Global Bond	125.60	131.90	.	4.73
-do- Accum	174.70	183.50	- 0.10	4.73
Gold & General	112.60	121.10	+ 0.100	0.59
-do- Accum	*118.50*	*125.30*	*+ 0.100*	*0.59*
Govt Securities	100.20	103.30	- 0.20	5.36
-do- Accum	220.50	227.30	- 0.40	5.36
High Yield Bd	107.70	110.40	- 0.20	6.17
-do- Accum	120.80	123.70	- 0.38	6.17
Income	224.50	238.60†	- 2.10	3.77
-do- Accum	387.90	412.30†	- 3.70	3.77
Inc Portfolio #	123.90	131.20†	- 0.50	4.97
-do- Accum #	141.10	149.50†	- 0.60	4.97
Intl Opps	607.30	647.80	- 5.10	0.76
-do- Accum	825.10	880.10	- 6.98	0.76
Japan	*133.00*	*141.90*	*- 6.80*	
-do- Accum	136.60	145.70	- 7.00	
New Europe	274.60	292.90	- 0.60	0.96
-do- Accum	288.20	307.40	- 0.70	0.96
Pacific	70.75	75.42	- 1.23	0.30
-do- Accum	76.33	81.36	- 1.33	0.30



Equities rally at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
545	407½	Allied Domecq	528	+ 8	4.8	12.1
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	420	..	4.3	11.7
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46½	..	9.1	16.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	950	..	1.7	23.5
638	425½	Grand Met	565½	- 6½	3.3	18.2
639½	424	Guinness	580	- 9	3.4	15.5
380	280	Highland Distl	314	- 2½	3.6	14.2
335	213	Matthew Clark	223½	..	13.4	6.7
109½	49½	Merrydown	91	..	7.6	12.6
3009½	1450	SA Breweries	1458½	- 6½	2.5	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1180½	+ 18½	2.7	17.8
1050	710	Abbey Ntl	970	+ 4	3.8	15.9
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	715	+ 35	2.8	16.7
563	368½	Allied Irish	516½	- ½	3.5	14.7
516½	363½	Aus New Z	405½	- 18½	5.0	..
4931½	2675	Bank America	4271½	- 84½	..	..
548	291½	Bank Scotland	508	+ 5½	2.2	14.1
1802	978½	Barclays	1473	- 10	2.8	14.0
812½	517½	Bk of Ireland	788½	- 4½	2.7	17.3
8659½	6008½	Citicorp	7218½	- 93½	..	..
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1808½	- 3½	2.8	..
882½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan	418½	- 50	0.9	..
4593½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3812½	+ 7½	1.6	..
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1189½	+ 3½	3.0	..
947½	351	Fuji Bank	351	- 63	1.1	65.3
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1435	- 15	4.0	11.5
2258½	1226	HSBC HK	1384	- 15	4.2	11.1
783	507	Halifax	695	+ 21	2.7	23.4
645	483½	Irish Perm	590	..	2.6	16.3
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	706	- 7	2.5	20.6
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	821	- 14½	4.8	..
1012½	693½	Nat West	882½	- ½	4.2	13.9
504½	449	Northern Rock	478½	- ½	2.4	19.8
729½	506	Ryl Bk Scot	625	+ 25½	3.6	14.5
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	843	- 5	3.0	11.2
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½	..	1.9	
493½	315½	Westpac	362½	- 8½	4.0	
373½	267½	Woolwich	290½	- 4½	3.4	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
900	685	Bass	866½	- 7½	3.7	16.3
68½	43½	Brk for the Bdr	51	+ 1	4.4	18.8
205	132½	Burtonwood Brw	172½	..	5.8	13.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	130½	+ ½	2.4	20.3
744½	575½	Compass Gp	658½	+ ½	1.7	24.2
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	260½	..	2.7	14.4
266½	221	Enterprise Inns	257½	- 4	3.7	..
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A'	427½	..	2.9	14.9
588	310	Greenalls Gp	372½	- 3½	5.3	9.3
770	610	Greene King	653½	..	3.1	14.0
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	192½	..	4.1	20.1
293½	218½	Groupe Chez Gerd	278½	- 1	1.4	22.3
298½	226½	Hardy Hanson	227½	..	6.0	10.1
2650	2350	Hall J	2400	..	3.1	13.4
78	59	Inn Business	59½	- ½	3.4	9.5
357	295	Mansfield	297½	..	3.1	12.2
315½	252	Marston Thmp	271	..	3.7	8.4
675	487½	Morland	492½	..	3.3	12.7
265½	210	Old Eng Pubs	241½	..	1.2	19.1
47½	18½	Paramount	21½	..		
853	527½	PizzaExpress	789	+ 4	0.5	40.8
437½	310	Ramsdens (H)	317½	..	2.0	28.1
378½	262½	Regent Inns	312½	+ 10	1.3	25.2
130	102½	SFI	108½	..	0.8	23.1
768½	565	Scot & New	627	+ 8	3.9	14.5
305	222½	Vaux Group	251	+ 4	5.3	11.3
330	221	Wetherspoon JD	325½	..	0.8	37.6
883	620	Whitbread	829½	- 3	3.7	14.1
706½	490	Wolvrhmptn D	498½	..	5.0	9.5
382½	279½	Yates Bros	352½	- 2½	1.1	25.8
702½	615	Young 'A'	667½	..	3.0	27.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	380	..	1.7	19.5
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	267½	..	2.4	11.7
917	532½	Broken Hill	532½	- 22½	3.9	14.2
289	180½	BTR	210	+ 5	5.2	7.3
624	462	BAT	528	- 11	6.2	13.0
60½	41	Brierley Inv	41½	- 1½	11.6	6.7
266	182	Cookson	208	- 2½	4.8	12.9
229½	197½	Cosalt	215½	..	6.0	9.3
415	255½	DCC	395	..	2.5	14.7
330	243½	Gallaher	318½	+ 6½	7.6	9.9
140½	101½	Hanson Cashfl	120½	- 1	9.1	13.5
667½	338½	Hutch Whampoa	598	- 7½	3.0	23.6
438½	361	Imperial Tob	384	- 1	6.5	7.7
522½	309½	Jardine Mathsn	309½	- 14	4.8	12.3
155½	85½	Lonrho	90	- 1½	6.6	9.4
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	169	..	5.1	13.4
458½	388½	Powell Duffryn	437½	+ 3	7.2	12.3
197½	141½	Steeley	147½	+ ½	7.8	19.0
604½	274½	Swire Pacific	285	- 8	4.8	
397½	298½	TI Group	315	- ½	3.2	12.9
351	252½	Tomkins	291	+ 4	4.2	13.3
210	165	Unitech	185	..	8.5	9.8
498	350	Wardle Storeys	397½	..	6.4	
387½	285½	Wassall	316½	- 2	2.7	14.2
166½	122½	Whitecroft	122½	..	4.8	19.7

ELECTRICITY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
439½	184½	Br Energy	410	+ 7	4.3	38.8
665	463½	Energy Group	625	+ ½	4.3	13.2
315	192	National Grid	285	- 3	4.9	11.7
590½	427	National Power	525	- 13	6.8	7.8
482	352½	Nthn Ireland	469½	+ 1	5.5	33.8
797½	585½	PowerGen	748	+ 2	4.2	12.1
478½	319½	Hydro-Elect	439½	+ 2½	5.0	10.5
500½	331½	Scottish Power	460	..	5.3	11.2
506	373½	Southern Elec	454	..	5.9	12.4

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Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 10½ as 10 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches *exactly the points required for* the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Vaux Group	Breweries	
2	Severn Trent	Water	
3	Randfontein	Mining	
4	Capital Inds	Print Pap	
5	Alld Domecq	Alc Bev	
6	Svrfld-Rve	Engin'ing	
7	Elsevier	Media	
8	Redland	Bld Mats	
9	West Hlthcare	Healthcare	
10	Billiton	Mining	
11	BTP	Chemicals	
12	Abbey Ntl	Banks	
13	Croda	Chemicals	
14	Persimmon	Bld & Cons	
15	Select App	Sup Serv	
16	*Marks Spencer*	*Ret Gen*	
17	Mucklw (A&J)	Property	
18	BTR	Div Inds	
19	JJB Sports	Ret Gen	
20	Telemetrix	Electronic	
21	*Johnson Fry*	*Oth Fin*	
22	Ronson	Distrib's	
23	Versailles Grp	Oth Fin	
24	Helphire Gp	Transport	
25	Hambros	Oth Fin	
26	Caverdale	Distrib's	
27	Br Steel	Engin'ing	
28	Baynes (Chas)	Engin'ing	
29	Laird	Eng, Veh	
30	Petaling Tin	Mining	
31	Tate & Lyle	Food Man	
32	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
33	Dom & Gen	Insurance	
34	Brk for Bdr	Breweries	
35	Lorien	Sup Serv	
36	Br Energy	Elecry	
37	BTG	Sup Serv	
38	Charter	Engin'ing	
39	Skillsgroup	Sup Serv	
40	Lincat	Engin'ing	
41	Rank Gp	Leisure	
42	Isotron	Healthcare	
43	Yorklyde	Textiles	
44	Powell Diffryn	Div Inds	

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

Five winners shared yesterday's prize: B Smith, Princes Risborough, Bucks; G Wright, Jura, Scotland; S Robinson, Leeds; I Howe, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; N Tagharist, London SW5.

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

هكذا من الاهل

Blown off course

CONCERT

CBSO/Halsey

Birmingham

AS WITH most of Judith Weir's music, the concept behind her latest score is intriguing. "I have often wished," she says of the role played by the natural and magical elements in *The Tempest*, "that I could see a production of this play with no actors in it. *Storm* is perhaps the soundtrack of that production, performed in a concert hall."

Given such an imaginative composer and the colour resources of the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Chorus, combined with those of nine instrumentalists from the CBSO, there was every reason to expect something atmospheric and illuminating. That's why, on its first performance, conducted by the chorus director Simon Halsey in Symphony Hall, *Storm* was so disappointing.

In a youth concert, with the plainly repetitive instrumental parts played by the young musicians they seem to have been written for, Weir's score would have been heard in a more favourable context.

One could have noted with educational approval the prominent presence of a thundersheet in the storm and the use of 20 or so other bits and pieces of percussion, together with three flutes and three cellos, to represent the island's "thousand twangling instruments".

One could also have enjoyed the unsophisticated sound of dozens of treble and adolescent soprano and alto voices lilting melodiously through the harmonically and rhythmically straightforward vocal parts.

In a CBSO concert in Symphony Hall, with Mahler's Fifth Symphony to come after the interval, *Storm* was sadly out of place. There is more interesting music in a dozen spoken lines from *The Tempest* than in the 20 minutes of Weir's work.

By the end of this month, when Simon Rattle and the CBSO get back from a tour of Switzerland and Austria, they will have given at least eight more performances of Mahler's Fifth. So it is fortunate that there is still something to work for. The virtuoso first horn part is already well under control, as is most of the scoring for brass and woodwind. The cellos are impressive, too. But the violin sound is, as yet, ill-focused and easily swamped, while the interpretation, characteristically fervent though it is, really needs to have more patience with the structural strategy of the last movement.

GERALD LARNER

BRIEFLY NOTED

SKATING: Far from hanging up their skates in favour of a comfortable retirement, the world's most famous ice dancers are heading back to the rink for what promises to be an annual ice event. Torvill and Dean will perform for the first time in Britain since 1994-95 when their *Face the Music* tour played to more than one million people. Their new show, *Ice Adventures*, will be made up of five specially commissioned stories and will be choreographed by the illustrious duo with help from Robin Driscoll, the writer of *Mr Bean*. *Ice Adventures*, which also features a lineup of international skating stars, opens at the NEC in Birmingham on December 16, and reaches Wembley Arena on December 30.

THEATRE: Those of a nervous disposition are advised to steer clear of the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds next February when it stages the world premiere of the first play by Irvine Welsh — Mr *Trainspotting* himself. Billed as a "revenger's tragedy for the chemical age", *You'll Have Had Your Hole* (a Scottish phrase for which the politest translation is "You'll have had your oats") is set in a disused recording studio. Behind its soundproofed walls two Scots inflict bizarre and gruesome punishment on a third.

DANCE: Andrea Quinn, who cut her conducting teeth with some of Britain's top youth orchestras, has been named music director of the Royal Ballet. Quinn, who takes up the job next April, first came to the attention of the dance world when she won the Conduct for Dance competition in 1993. Since then she has worked with the Royal Ballet on several occasions, notably as music director of its Dance Bites tour. The appointment has been a long time coming, but Royal Ballet artistic director Anthony Dowell says: "Our patience in not appointing a music director until we had the right person for this demanding position has been rewarded."

POP: The war is hotting up between the makers of the Barbie doll and the record label responsible for the hit single *Barbie Girl*, sung by the Danish pop duo Aqua. That, you will remember, is the song that knocked the Spice Girls off their No 1 perch. A favourite of little girls everywhere, it features lines such as "Kiss me here, touch me there, hanky panky". In September the toy manufacturer Mattel Inc sued MCA Records, claiming the lyrics "associate sexual and other unsavoury themes with its Barbie products". Now MCA has counter-sued for defamation, claiming Mattel made false statements to the press with "ill will, hatred or actual malice towards MCA".

Superstar in search of peace

Brad Pitt tells **Martyn Palmer** why his need for a quiet time making *Seven Years in Tibet* left him trapped behind barbed wire

It's either Indiana Jones come to the foothills of the Himalayas or Brad Pitt loosening up a little in the Andes

Shortly after arriving in Uspallata, a remote dustbowl of a town in the foothills of the Andes, director Jean-Jacques Annaud was faced with having to call his studio back in Hollywood with a rather unusual request in order to protect his big star, Brad Pitt.

Annaud had chosen Uspallata (population 200) and the surrounding area on the Argentine border with Chile because of its similarities to the Himalayas, where his latest project, *Seven Years in Tibet* — reviewed by Geoff Brown on the facing page — is set. He also chose it because, he thought, it would mean that the cast and crew — Pitt in particular — would be left in peace to get on with the job. But Annaud had seriously underestimated the pulling power of Hollywood's No 1 golden boy.

"The first day he arrived I took him to this little restaurant at the gas station," Annaud says. "Suddenly six buses stop in front of the restaurant and girls are pouring out and screaming, '*Aaaah, Brad Pitt! Brad Pitt!*' It was like the Beatles or something."

The paparazzi weren't far behind. Annaud estimates that within a couple of days there were more than 150 different cars, trucks and vans full of photographers from all over the world converging on the town. Annaud had no choice but to move his star into the local army barracks. It was siege time.

"The whole barracks was immediately surrounded by screaming women and photographers," Annaud says. "It had machineguns on the outside walls but I suppose they knew that we couldn't shoot them so they started climbing the walls. The first bill they saw back at the studio was $60,000 for six miles of barbed wire to put around the perimeter wall. They said: 'This isn't in the budget.' I said: 'I know, but what do you expect me to do?' "

The actor himself, who has seen his popularity soar ever since he played a charismatic drifter in *Thelma and Louise* six years ago, says that even he was surprised by the furore. "We were in the middle of nowhere and I thought it would be the one place we would escape all that. Then again they'd had *Evita* down in Argentina, with Madonna and everything, and whenever you bring a movie into somewhere and make it tangible for people, there is curiosity. In the end, you just have to get on with the job."

If Pitt is philosophical about the fuss, there are signs that, at 33, the novelty of a life lived under the microscope, where his every move is analysed and judged, is beginning to wear off. Earlier this year, when his relationship with the actress Gwyneth Paltrow ended, the attention reached fever pitch, leaving him weary and somewhat guarded.

Indeed, he says that one of the reasons he chose to make *Seven Years in Tibet* was because the film's central theme deals with the ultimate shallowness of the individual's quest for success at all costs. Material rewards — and Pitt is now said to be paid $12 million per picture — do not necessarily bring happiness. "We think that success will patch up some kind of hole in our lives and the truth is that it doesn't," Pitt says. "But I can say that until I'm blue in the face and no one is going to hear it."

> 'The climbing became a bit of a metaphor for life'

Pitt feels that the enormous rewards which Hollywood bestows on its chosen few bring their own very real problems. And that success is hollow without "something else", whether it be religion, a secure relationship or whatever, to act as an anchor in life.

"Yeah, sure, I think that's why you see so many of us actors who don't last the long run and don't survive it," he says. "They become self-destructive, whether it's with their career or their life. And I think it's why people have overdosed and so many people have checked out. It's a beast. And it actually puts the emphasis on the wrong thing. You get away with more instead of looking within."

Seven Years in Tibet is based on the true story of Austrian mountaineer Heinrich Harrer, who in 1939 left behind his pregnant wife to join an expedition which set out to climb Nanga Parbat, one of the highest peaks in the Himalayas.

Harrer, a self-centred, arrogant man, and his colleagues were captured by the British after war was declared. They escaped and Harrer, along with expedition leader Peter Aufschnaiter (played in the film by David Thewlis), trekked through the Himalayas for two years before eventually smuggling themselves into the mysterious Tibetan city of Lhasa, where they were befriended by the 14-year-old Dalai Lama. Harrer, now 85, became one of the Dalai's tutors and, through his friendship, experienced the spiritual awakening which is at the very heart of the film.

But, as the production neared its completion, Germany's *Stern* magazine revealed what director Annaud says he suspected all along — that Harrer was a member of the Nazi party. "It wasn't obvious to me before we started filming that he was a Nazi," Pitt says. "He was certainly a representative of it, that much was apparent from the script. But when the story came out it took a more sensationalist tack in the sense that when you hear the word 'Nazi' you have visions of concentration camps and mass torture. That wasn't the case here.

"This was an egotistical man looking to further himself. He only cared about himself and this wasn't about political convictions. It wasn't about serving some cause or belief other than the belief in himself.

"In a way, the fact that he was a Nazi enhances the story, because it's about coming to terms with your demons. It was certainly nothing that bothered me."

The shoot itself was extremely arduous and physically demanding on its two main stars. Pitt and Thewlis tackled most of the climbing scenes themselves, after intense pre-film training.

"Actually, we both wanted to do more," Pitt says. "The climbing became a bit of a metaphor for life. The day before you make the assault you are anxious and excited and then you finally get there and it's a battle of the head as much as anything. It's you and the mountain. It was an amazing experience."

Unlike others in Hollywood — notably Richard Gere — Pitt's close contact with Tibetan culture has not led to him becoming a Buddhist. He is still looking for that "something else", but it has obviously made him think about his own life and values.

"I'm interested in all religions," he says, "without being part of any religion. And I certainly believe that when you look at this culture, which is completely different from ours and not materialistic, we have a lot to learn from them.

"We had a lot of Tibetan people on set and you spend the day with them and you feel this inner sense of harmony and peace and yet, on the materialistic side, they have nothing. So it makes you wonder if they are on the right track and you're not."

OFFICIAL SELECTION IN COMPETITION - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1997
STEPHEN DILLANE WOODY HARRELSON MARISA TOMEI
"BRILLIANTLY MADE, intensely dramatic... VERY MOVING."
Derek Malcolm THE GUARDIAN
"SPELLBINDING The Most Moving Film I've seen since SCHINDLER'S LIST."
Simon Rose THE MIRROR
"A FLAT-OUT MASTERPIECE... to nail your eyes open."
VILLAGE VOICE
WELCOME TO SARAJEVO
A FILM BY MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM
STARTS TODAY
WARNER WEST END LEICESTER SQ. 0171-437 4347
VIRGIN HAYMARKET
ODEON KENSINGTON 0181 315 4214
ODEON CAMDEN
TOTTENHAM CT. RD.
UGC
Barbican
RITZY
GREENWICH CINEMA 01426 919020
PECKHAM PREMIER 0171 732 1010
HAMPSTEAD 0181 970 6031
RIO DALSTON
AND AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE

POP: Conner Reeves puts his blue-eyed soul to the test of live performance

Pretty tasty, but go easy on the syrup

The apparent ease with which Conner Reeves sashayed into the public consciousness in the summer could almost restore one's faith in the fairness of the star system. South London tunesmith releases cultured debut single, radio stations play it, public buys it. The story did not just adhere to the textbook; it was superglued to it.

The subtext to the success of *My Father's Son* was that Reeves was already a relative veteran when it burst forth. He appeared to arrive as the finished singer-songwriting article thanks to a firm schooling in professional tunesmithery, during which he had compositions recorded by Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt and others.

Reeves has recently had another Top 15 hit, *Earthbound*, and, with a maiden album of that name due in the record racks on Monday, his next test was to pass under the microscope of his first live show as a "name". The Jazz Café, in Camden, north London, was packed with people eager to take a turn at the eyepiece.

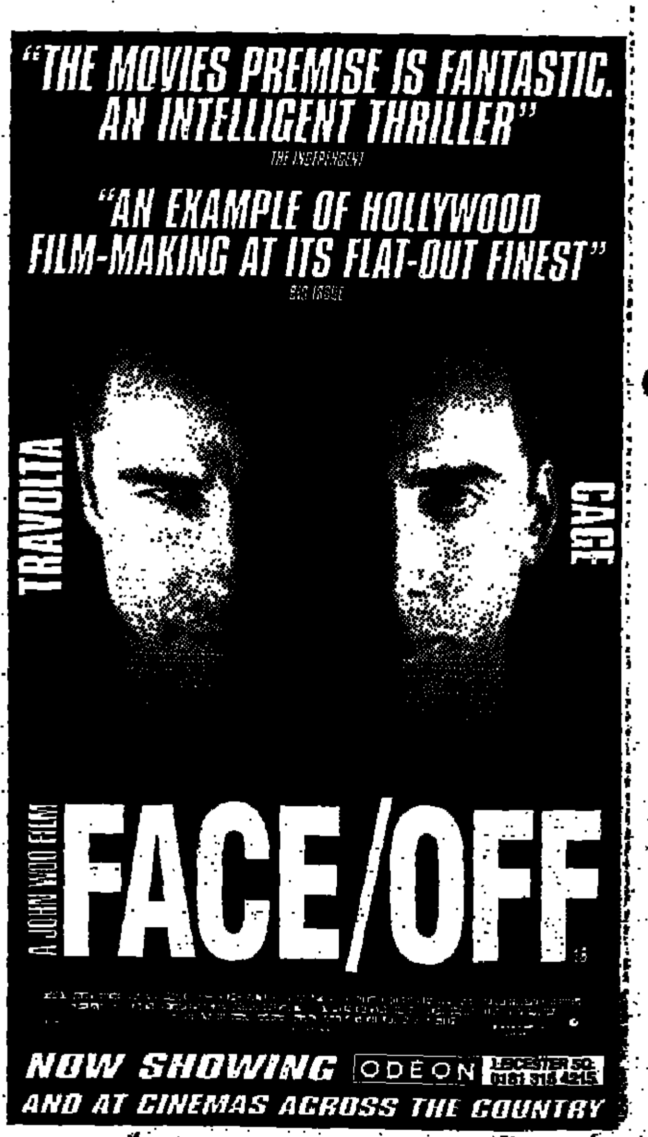
If the album tends occasionally to have a spoonful too much syrup, its songs are founded on the exacting standards of construction set by the upscale freelance composer: memorable choruses, cut-above lyrics and, best of all, a voice of an unforced and sustained soulfulness not often heard this side of the Atlantic.

All those qualities showed themselves at the Jazz Café in an increasingly confident performance. Assuming the keyboards in his trademark leather cap; he and his band led off with the tightly woven and funky *Read My Mind*. *Nobody But You* was the first to stir those feelings of excessive smoothness, and by the time Reeves underlined his emotive vocal abilities in the gospel-leaning *We are the Wave* one wished he was plying those skills in slightly more dangerous territory.

Earthbound came over as the kind of Kleenex ballad that could well get Hollywood on the line, as did the encore, *Ordinary People*. By then the audience had warmed not only to the music but to Reeves's down-to-earth demeanour. He has the potential to be a British Babyface but, like that multi-faceted artist, he should remember that quality material can have one coat of varnish too many.

PAUL SEXTON

After two fairly successful singles, Conner Reeves is nearly ready to take his well-honed songs into the big time


"THE MOVIES PREMISE IS FANTASTIC. AN INTELLIGENT THRILLER"
THE INDEPENDENT
"AN EXAMPLE OF HOLLYWOOD FILM-MAKING AT ITS FLAT-OUT FINEST"
BIG ISSUE
TRAVOLTA
CAGE
A JOHN WOO FILM
FACE/OFF
NOW SHOWING ODEON LEICESTER SQ. 0181 315 4215
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown salutes the intelligence and compassion of Gillies MacKinnon's masterly *Regeneration*

The war film to end all war films

Regeneration
Odeon Haymarket
15, 113 mins
Powerful and poignant adaptation of Pat Barker's novel

Welcome to Sarajevo
Warner West End
15, 101 mins
The horrors of war, the agony of war reportage

Seven Years in Tibet
Empire, PG, 139 mins
Brad Pitt reaches enlightenment, but what about us?

Lawn Dogs
Curzon West End
15, 101 mins
Lively film about forbidden friendship

Inventing the Abbotts
Warner West End
15, 106 mins
Small-town drama not worth inventing

Nothing to Lose
Warner West End
15, 98 mins
Except Tim Robbins's winning streak

An overhead camera surveys the scene. Trenches. Mud. *Shells* exploding. Lives ending. Minds breaking. **Regeneration**, the film of Pat Barker's novel, should have been released last week, the week of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Instead, we were watching Demi Moore's muscles.

But *Regeneration* has the last laugh. For all its onslaught of imagery, *G.I. Jane* passes in and out of the memory. Gillies MacKinnon's film stays put, and percolates through the heart and mind. If you wondered where intelligence and feeling went in British film-making, it went here, into this powerful account of life at Craiglockart Military Hospital in Edinburgh, 1917: home to the shell-shocked of the First World War, to Siegfried Sassoon, the soldier pacifist, to Wilfred Owen, war poet in the making, and to Dr William Rivers, the doctor undergoing his own crisis as he attends to shattered minds.

The brilliantly staged opening — one of the most vivid and terrible re-creations of the wartime trenches in all cinema — is in some ways misleading. It prefigures a film of physical action. But the bulk of the action in *Regeneration* occurs in the characters' minds, as they wage their own wars between patriotism and pacifism, sanity and madness, ways of healing, and the various divisions of friendship and class.

Allan Scott's script further complicates matters by avoiding a straight narrative line. There are no heroes or villains in this film to stir big emotions: we dart between characters who in themselves conjure ambivalent feelings. Is Sassoon a cool, collected upper-class prig, or a valiant man struggling with conflicting beliefs? As for Dr Rivers, is he friend to the patients, or their foe? Should he, indeed, be a patient himself, as disturbed as he is by the trauma of tackling trauma?

Exemplary performances guide us through this maze. In the past James Wilby has seemed just another young *man from the Merchant Ivory* picture gallery, but he works himself with considerable skill into the role of Sassoon, the *decorated soldier assigned to* Craiglockart as an alternative to a court martial after issuing a statement denouncing the war. Jonathan Pryce *is more* compelling still as Rivers, less assured, more wounded, as the scenes proceed, especially after witnessing the electric shock treatment pioneered by John Neville's Dr Yealland. Yealland gives his patients a brutal jolt; *Rivers prefers a* mental massage, helping to heal delicate souls such as Stuart Bunce's Wilfred Owen or Jonny Lee Miller's working-class Billy, a fictional character, struck dumb by the trenches.

In the past, MacKinnon has sometimes pushed too hard for effects. But he lets Barker's material envelop us without cinema's equivalent of a rude jab with the elbow. The film's power and poignancy makes you realise anew why the First World War haunts this century so much: a way of living and a core of certainties were blasted apart in the trenches, and we are still picking up the pieces.

In 70 years will the world still be making films, or their equivalent, about the war in former Yugoslavia? I suspect *not, although for several years* no film festival has been complete without human dramas ripped from the Balkans. **Welcome to Sarajevo**, *from* the *Butterfly Kiss* team of Michael Winterbottom and Frank Cottrell Boyce, is Brit*ain's first entry in the genre,* and for much of the time it stands its ground well.

This is Sarajevo in 1992. *Civilians fall to sniper fire* with numbing suddenness; the shooting over, journalists and TV crews jump to it, wending *through* the carnage, bringing the horrors to firesides worldwide. Since this is a British movie, a certain decorum *operates. It is left to the* American TV journalist played by Woody Harrelson to act the wild man; our own fellow, played by Stephen Dillane, goes softly softly, at least until he takes up the cause of orphaned children and smuggles one girl out of the country in a busload of evacuees.

Dillane's character is called Michael Henderson, just a short hop away from Michael Nicholson, the *ITN reporter whose experi*ences inspired the film. Dillane's gradual shift from objective reporter to feeling *participant* is absorbing, although there are a number of distractions. One is the presence of Harrelson and Marisa *Tomei as an aid worker:* unhelpful in a film that yearns to do without Hollywood gloss. Another is Boyce's *script, which cannot resist* heavy irony and leaves lesser characters dangling.

The images, at least, are *shaped, shot, and cut* with care. During street turmoil, film and video footage alternate to striking effect. Archive *footage supplies various visita*tions by politicians and the UN: useful for fuelling the film's exasperation with the powers that be. In fact, for all its use of orphaned children and tender feelings, *Welcome to Sarajevo* is quite a tart movie; faults acknowledged, it should be seen.

The week's third war takes place in Tibet in 1949, when Chinese forces do their best to stamp out Buddhist religion and culture. Not that **Seven Years in Tibet** is a war movie: indeed, Jean-Jacques An*naud's* elaborate *international* production filmed, for safety's sake, in Argentina, does not know what it is. For the first hour, we remain locked into an uninvolving if true story of Heinrich Harrer, an arrogant Austrian mountaineer played *by that famous* Austrian, Brad Pitt, setting out for the Himalayas shortly before the Second World War. David *Thewlis, another famous Aus*trian, keeps him company. Together, they get dumped into a PoW camp, escape, *argue and generally do noth*ing endearing.

Then they reach Tibet. Mountains are forgotten. They *form attachments.* Thewlis gets the girl, but Pitt gets the boy Dalai Lama. He fills the youngster in on the Western world, even helps to build him a cinema. The film becomes more interesting, but chaotic. Just when Pitt's spiritual growth seems the focus, the Chinese blur the issue by marching in. After two long hours, we still remain outside Heinrich Harrer's experience.

The landscape and photography are ravishing, of course. Tibet looks authentic, for all the use of a stand-in country. *Pitt strips to the waist to please* his fans. But all this handsomeness still leaves the film in a muddle. Tibet deserves better [illegible]

Lawn Dogs could be the last new film to be bashed into life by the Rank gongman. Rank Film Distributors, who financed the venture, shot in Kentucky, now are no more. The company's progenitor, J. Arthur Rank, would probably think John Duigan's drama the work of the devil. But the film tells its story very well, with lashings of quirky atmosphere and two outstanding performances. One is Mischa Barton's: the ten-year-old is wonderfully natural as the lonely and troubled girl marooned in a well-heeled suburban development. Another is Sam Rockwell's: his character mows the estate's lawns and endures the scorn of local layabouts and his employers. An odd friendship builds between the two outsiders; fireworks result.

The script, by Naomi Wallace, is spare and suggestive. This is the first time Duigan has worked in America, but the Australian director of *Flirting* and *Sirens* finds much to stimulate his visual eye in the stifling, manicured Kentucky suburb. *Lawn Dogs* looks good, feels different and feels right.

Other new films peddle worn-out goods. **Inventing the Abbotts**, directed by Pat O'Connor, is an overtly solemn and old-fashioned drama, set in sunny, small-town Illinois in the late 1950s, where the working-class Holt brothers share adolescent pains with the three daughters of the wealthy Abbott family. The cast includes Joaquin Phoenix, Billy Crudup, Will Patton and Liv Tyler, but no one is allowed to be exciting.

Nor do sparks fly in **Nothing to Lose**, despite the provocative star billing. Tim Robbins plays an advertising executive who takes to the road with a reluctant mugger (the amiable Martin Lawrence). Robbins has shown such savvy as a director (*Bob Roberts, Dead Man Walking*) that his participation in Steve Oedekerk's tedious comedy comes as a rude shock. Oh well. Even Homer nods.

"If you wondered where intelligence and feeling went in British film-making, it went here": a scene from *Regeneration*, based on Pat Barker's Booker-winning novel

SNAP VERDICT

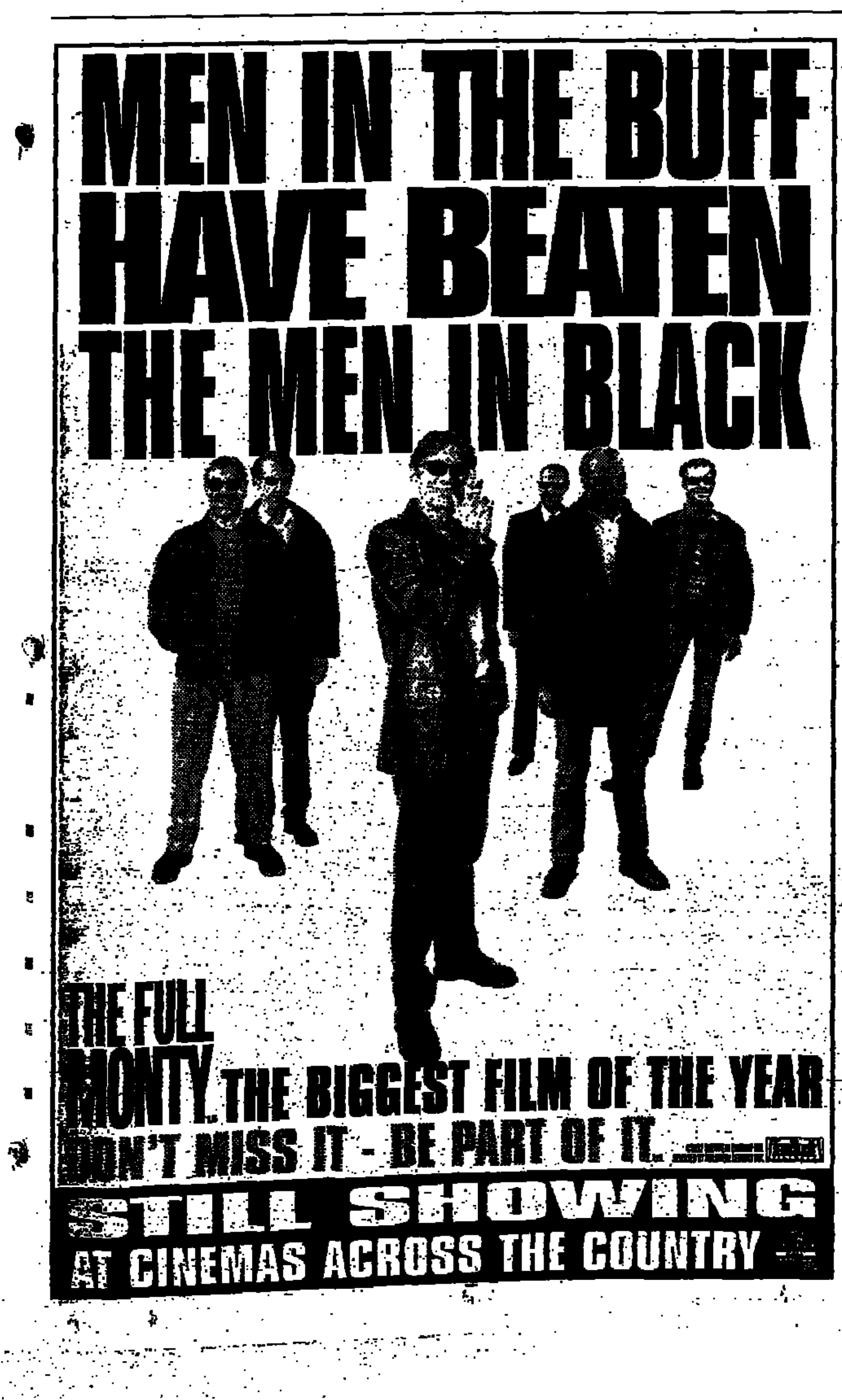
'Searing story'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases ...

☐ *REGENERATION*
Jethro Aukin, 18: A thoughtful psychological drama. Excellent acting.
Dom Young, 19: Fine adaptation of Pat Barker's haunting novel.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: The obvious commitment of the director and actors brings to life *this searing story.*
Sharada Osman, 19: Could this really be the same Jonny Lee Miller we saw in *Trainspotting*? He is superb.

☐ *SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET*
Jethro: An ambitious movie that isn't wholly successful.
Dom: Good solid performances from Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.
Leslie: Provides a valuable understanding of the history and current situation of Tibet.
Sharada: Stunningly photographed. Pitt is a revelation.

☐ *WELCOME TO SARAJEVO*
Jethro: Bloody marvellous. Oliver Stone, eat your heart out.
Dom: It will stain your mind and soul.
Leslie: The film's emotional impact comes from the use of news footage, not from the screenplay or direction.
Sharada: Superb, realistic acting in this documentary-type film. Prepare to be stirred.



MEN IN THE BUFF HAVE BEATEN THE MEN IN BLACK
THE FULL MONTY
THE BIGGEST FILM OF THE YEAR
DON'T MISS IT - BE PART OF IT.
STILL SHOWING
AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

هكذا من الاصل

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

CELEBRITY RECITAL: The only London appearance this year by the distinguished American cellist Yo Yo Ma. He is joined by the fine British pianist Kathryn Stott in a programme featuring music by Stravinsky, Brahms, Edgar Meyer and Astor Piazzolla.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

MADAME DE SADE: William Glynne directs a production for new theatre company Gaudeamus of the cult Japanese writer and revolutionary Yukio Mishima's psychological study of love and loyalty set around the time of the French Revolution.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-741 2255). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Sun, 7.45pm Ⓢ

SOUNDS OF SIBELIUS: Valo, the Finnish festival, proceeds with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis continuing its Sibelius cycle. Tonight's programme opens with the tone poem *The Oceanides*, followed by *Symphonies 3 and 4*.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

MUTABILITIE: Trevor Nunn directs a new Frank McGuinness play, set in Ireland in 1598 and also in a land of myth where the roots of English involvement in Ireland may have their origin. Patrick Malahide, Anton Lesser, *Aisling O'Sullivan play characters that* include the poet Spenser and a playwright named William.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Opens tonight 7pm. Then tomorrow and Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BELFAST: A unique opportunity to see **Saints and Singing** — the latest offering from visual theatre wizard Robert Wilson. Based on the texts of Gertrude Stein the work is a collaboration between Wilson and sound artist and composer Hans Peter Kuhn. It comes to the Belfast Festival hot on the heels of its world premiere in the Hebbel Theatre, Berlin.
Maysfield Leisure Centre (01232 665577). Tonight-Sat, 8pm

GLASGOW: Scottish Ballet launches its winter season here with Frederick Ashton's high-spirited classical ballet **La Fille mal gardée**. Guest artists include Wayne Sleep, who, for the first four performances will dance the comic but technically challenging role of Alain.

Wayne Sleep guests with Scottish Ballet, Glasgow

Yuna Shimohara and Fiona Brockway dance the role of the young lovers. Production adviser is Alexander Grant.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Visits to Aberdeen and Edinburgh follow Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: This evening's concert by the **Hallé Orchestra** under the Romanian conductor Cristian Mandeal offers music by three Russian masters. Prokofiev's Symphony No 1 is followed by Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3 and Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*. Piano soloist is Bruno Leonardo Gelber.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

STRATFORD UPON AVON: James Macdonald's first production for the RSC is **Roberto Zucco** by Bernard-Marie Koltès with Zubin Varla playing the hero on the run. Is he a rapist, lover, killer or spy?
The Other Place, Southern Lane (01789 295623). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 26, 7pm. In rep Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Roy Lichtenstein (0171-499 4100) .. **Barbican:** James Ensor (0171-638 8891) .. **British Museum:** Carter 1900-1939 (0171-323 8525) .. **Design Museum:** A tour of bicycle design history (0171-378 6055) .. **Hulton Getty Picture Gallery:** A Winter's Tale (0171-376 4525) .. **Mall:** Discerning Eye .. **National:** Holbein's Ambassadors (0171-747 2885) .. **National Portrait:** Bruce Weber (0171-306 0055) .. **Royal Academy:** Victorian Fairy Painting (0171-439 7438) .. **Royal College of Art:** Artists and Anatomy (0171-590 4444) .. **Tate:** The Turner Prize 1997 Exhibition (0171-887 8000) .. **V & A:** Carl and Karin Larsson: Creators of the Swedish Style (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ ***Seats at all prices***

◪ **ART**: Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

☐ **CARAVAN**: A tangle of relationships tests the female solidarity of a family of three women holidaying in North Wales. First London production for a play by former Brookside actress Helen Blakeman. Gemma Bodinetz' cast includes Elizabeth Estensen, Emma Cunliffe and Pip Donaghy.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **CHICAGO**: Revised version of the *celebrated Kander & Ebb musical* directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring *Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Henry* Goodman and Nigel Planer.
Adelphi, Strand, London WC2 (0171-344 0055). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

◪ **A DELICATE BALANCE**: Eileen *Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome* revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. *Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister.*
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats *Wed and Sat, 3pm* Ⓢ

■ **ELECTRA**: Zoe Wanamaker a powerful and poignant heroine in David Leveaux's production from Chichester. Marjorie Yates plays Clytemnestra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tue and Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

◪ **FAME**: *TV and film spin-off about* young hopefuls from the New York School of the Performing Arts. Touring *company in London for ten weeks.*
Victoria Palace, Victoria St, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Thur, 7.30pm; Fri, 5.30pm and 8pm; Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 17

◪ **GUYS AND DOLLS**: The Olivier *returns to its original shape for the revival* of Richard Eyre's exhilarating revival.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 *(0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm;* mat Sat, 2pm. Ends Sat

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **MY BOY JACK**: David Haig's gripping drama about Kipling's determination that his short-sighted son shall become a soldier.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, *NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm;* mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until Nov 22

◪ **WASTE**: Felicity Kendal, Michael Pennington, Denis Quilley in Granville Barker's fascinating drama of the power struggle within a government, complicated by sex.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep

☐ **WOYZECK**: Sarah Kane's gripping production of Buchner's tragedy of a common man. Riveting performances by Michael Shannon and Kate Ashfield.
Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until November 22

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) .. ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **Smokey Joe's Cafe**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987) .. ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) .. ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CHASING AMY *(18)*: *Comic-book* artist finds himself in love with a lesbian. Appealing new film from *Clerks* director *Kevin Smith, with Ben Affleck and Joey* Lauren Adams.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ***Curzon Phoenix*** *(0171-369 1721)* **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990)

FULL CONTACT (18): Routine Hong *Kong gangster fare, with Chow Yun Fat* and much violent action. Director, Ringo Lam.
ABC Piccadilly *(0171-437 3561)*

◆ **G.I. JANE** (15): Demi Moore tests her mettle in the Navy Seal training programme. *Unpleasant, masochistic* spectacle, directed by Ridley Scott.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) ***Tottenham Court Road*** *(0171-636* 6148) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) ***Marble Arch*** *(0181-315 4216)* **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) ***Virgins: Chelsea*** *(0171-352* 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***INCOGNITO*** *(15)*: Foolish American thriller, made in Europe, with Jason Patric as an art forger accused of murder. With Irene Jacob, Rod Steiger. Director, John Badham.
Virgin Trocadero Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ *(0171-437 4343)*

LAST SUMMER IN THE HAMPTONS (15): Loves and deceptions of theatre folk at a Long Island summer retreat. Beguiling film from American maverick Henry Jaglom, with Victoria Foyt and Viveca Lindfors.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255)

◆ **TRIAL AND ERROR** (12): Actor steps in for hung-over attorney and *defends a fraud case. Lame, uncertain* comedy, with Michael Richards and Jeff Daniels. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

CURRENT

◆ **FACE/OFF** (18): FBI agent John Travolta and terrorist Nicolas Cage swap identities. Outrageous thriller that never *knows when to stop.* Director, John Woo.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham P H** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Sq** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** *(0181-315 4216)* **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy. Director, Peter Cattaneo.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **A LIFE LESS ORDINARY** (15): Janitor and American heiress finally fall in love. Odd mix of comedy, fantasy and romance from the *Trainspotting* team. With Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Director, Danny Boyle.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins:** ***Fulham Road*** *(0171-370 2636)* **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Sinister, sassy charmers

If you have come to suspect that American juries may not always reach their verdicts on the basis of the truth and nothing but the truth, you should go to the Adelphi and discover for yourself that the Simpson and Woodward cases belong to a fine old tradition. As Kander and Ebb's splendidly scathing musical defines it, justice in the Chicago of 70 years ago was a branch of showbiz, complete with its own impresarios, playhouses and, in the form of highly subjective reporters, even its own reviewers. Time has added little but live television.

After all, how does Walter Bobbie's spare, sharp revival of *Chicago* attain and maintain its extraordinary grip? A phalanx of murderesses begin by lamenting that, just because they have slain irritating or inconvenient men, they are stuck in Cook County jail waiting for trial. But, as the plot proceeds to demonstrate, they have no cause to complain. Crime is the making and not the breaking of everyone bar the only innocent among them.

Chicago
Adelphi

Henry Goodman's celeb attorney — a performance as impeccable as his lacquered hair and polished rhetoric — shimmers onstage to declare that "if Jesus Christ had lived in Chicago and had $5,000, things would have turned out differently". That's good news for Ute Lemper's wonderfully brash, rangy Velma and Ruthie Henshall's sexy, fake-demure Roxie, both of whom are elbows deep in blood. Their notoriety proves to be a route to the jurors' hearts and — until a more exotic killer ("Berserk Filly Fells Four") replaces them — dual triumph on the vaudeville circuit.

When *Chicago* first came to London in 1979, it was a fussy affair. The twin strengths of Bobbie's revival are its imaginative simplicity and sly eroticism. Most of the stage is filled with a bank of musicians, leaving a slim shelf on which singers in black bras, briefs, trousers, waistcoats, whatever, indulge in the leggy sinuosities and sassy undulations that Ann Reinking has choreographed in the style of the late, great Bob Fosse. Think of a dangerously elegant entertainment from some corner of Hades, and you have the evening's sinister charm. Or imagine a post-socialist Brecht setting *The Threepenny Opera* in what is nominally the 1920s, but by inference the mawkish, victim-obsessed 1990s, and you have the measure of the mischief.

Kander's music is not just hummable but, like Ebb's lyrics, packed with sophisticated mockery. You won't quickly forget the moment when Lemper's Velma and Meg Johnson's big-momma wardress launch into a semi-literate tribute to nice manners and ethics; or when Nigel Planer, hilarious as Roxie's vast, vacant husband, burbles *Mr Cellophane*.

The show begins by welcoming us to a tale of murder, greed, treachery and "all those things we hold near and dear to our hearts", and it ends with glitzy Lemper and glamorous Henshall assuring their vaudeville audience that they are "the living examples of what a wonderful country America is". In between, the performers' abrasive energy and the authors' subversive wit never flag.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Showbiz is murder: Ute Lemper, Ruthie Henshall and Henry Goodman acting suspiciously in *Chicago*

Young, gifted and cracked

If ever a four-letter title deserved a government health warning, it is Ray Shelly's *Iced*, an uncompromising trawl through the life of a black American crack addict. Facing the electric chair for throwing a two-month-old baby off the roof of a tower block, *Cornelius Washington Jr must* convince an attractive white doctor who favours Gucci stilettos and a sexy knee-length skirt why he shouldn't fry.

"Bring the bastard in now," growls Donna King's Dr Dulight into the prison intercom. Enter Tyrone Huggins's subdued Cornelius, not a sadistic rolling-eyed mess but an educated, fearful victim of the most addictive drug on the streets. It is this wrestling match for the doctor's sympathy that preoccupies Felix Cross's production for the Black Theatre Co-op and Nottingham Playhouse.

[illegible]

Cornelius paints the scene at the breakfast table circa 1960, where his father, wearing a big white napkin, tells his 16-year-old son to forget his college aspirations and concentrate on being a "nigger" at home. Dr Dulight lights up a cigarette and we slip seamlessly into Cornelius's past.

With its neon lights and large tilted screen, Carla Eve Amie's set creates interesting spaces for the snapshots of family disunity and Cornelius's bohemian life in the big city. Some time in the 1970s a loving relationship with an older woman and a lawyer's job in the music world are derailed when Cornelius is introduced to crack.

Between lungfuls of "virgin smoke" Cornelius's disintegration is documented in a [illegible] that betrays the play's original roots as a novel. And a surprisingly old-fashioned one at that. "I don't have a life, all I have are needs," wails the increasingly jittery Cornelius. Addiction, it has to be said, is as monotonous as it is debasing.

Gordon Case plays three villains brilliantly, the best being a drug therapist who, in a satanic twist, turns his vulnerable patient back on to crack in exchange for sex. But it is Huggins who keeps the narrative oiled with a twitching, jabbering performance of paranoia and delusion that is affecting in the way that aversion therapy is affecting. One showing is quite enough.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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Sweden meets the challenger

FESTIVAL: Tippett goes down a treat in Scandinavia. **Hilary Finch** reports

There was never a Tippett festival like it: 50 works in ten days, from the First String Quartet to his final *The Rose Lake*. And this was not London, not Boston, but Stockholm, where very little Tippett is known or played. Elderly ladies diligently read their libretti over their smorgasbord; punks filled the galleries. Sir Michael, now 92, set off from London with high hopes of lasting the course, but contracted pneumonia and within 12 hours was in hospital. Twenty-four hours later he was up, receiving guests and reports of each warmly received concert.

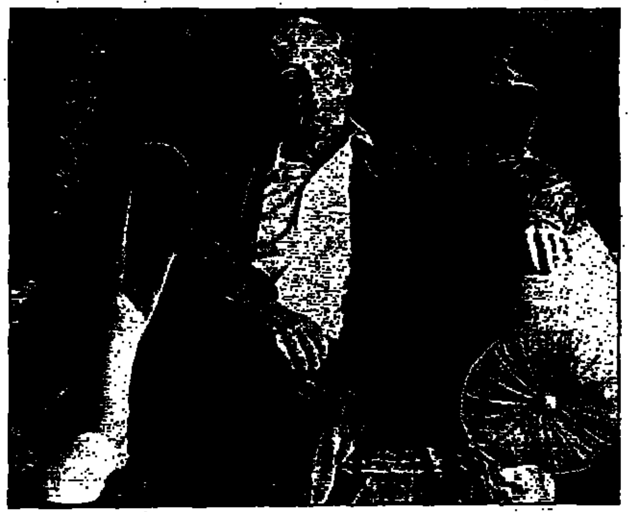
Each year the Stockholm Konserthus, home of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, offers an immersion course in the works of a major contemporary composer. Schnittke and Pärt have figured in recent years, and the energy, commitment and lively curiosity revealed by the often full houses of these festivals has to be seen to be believed. For Tippett, the general manager Ake Holmqvist, who founded the festival 12 years ago, had, with generous support from the British Council, assembled Sweden's leading orchestras and choruses, and vintage Tippett performers.

The RSP itself opened the festival with Andrew Davis conducting Tippett's verbose yet musically exuberant mega-oratorio *The Mask of Time*. The auditorium of the exquisite Art Deco Konserthus revealed Tippett's shifting kaleidoscope of orchestration with thrilling clarity, whether in filigree dance or in the coppery brass and percussion resonances of primeval sacrifice. The renowned Eric Ericson Choir had perhaps underestimated the complexity of the choral writing — testing enough even for native speakers. But while their contribution was cautiously underpowered, Davis's lithe pacing provided the momentum which, with a strong quartet of soloists including Carole Farley and Steven Page, ensured a powerful performance.

When *The Mask* was premiered in Boston in 1984 the piece, with its encyclopaedic literary and musical references, was thought to be a summation of a life's work. Of course there was much more to come: not least Tippett's remarkable 1990 setting of Yeats's *Byzantium* for soprano and orchestra, with its golden musical domes of gongs and trumpets, its pulsating harps and its heady, melismatic vocal writing. With Richard Armstrong conducting the excellent Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and with Helen Field re-creating with extraordinary eloquence "those images that yet fresh images beget", this was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend.

That evening had also witnessed a timely and buoyant performance of the 1948 *Suite for the Birthday of Prince Charles* and a rigorously searching account of the Second Symphony. The heavily ornamented duet for divided cellos and violins, and the exposed writing for trumpet, flute, harp and piano in a work where Tippett was moving towards fresh concepts of orchestration and harmony, certainly put an orchestra through its paces; and the Gothenburg, riding high on its recent elevation to Sweden's "national orchestra", met every challenge head-on.

Thanks to continuing British operatic machinations, Paul Daniel was unable to conduct the Triple Concerto and the Third Symphony. If the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Alun Francis sounded understandably cautious at the start of the symphony, the presence of soprano Faye Robinson, a Tippett veteran, raised his ironic and still disturbing response to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to a thrillingly high level of virtuoso performance.



Tippett: warm welcome from Swedish music-lovers

Storm and stress in Sussex

The Chichester Theatre director tells **Richard Morrison** why he has suddenly quit the job

MARTIN BEDDALL

Duncan Weldon: after a tumultuous weekend of rows he has left the Chichester Theatre, claiming that the board has breached his contract

In a plush Aldwych office from which he customarily surveys the world he knows best — London's pulsating theatreland — Duncan Weldon crouches on the edge of an armchair contemplating his other life, the life that came crashing down around him last weekend. Eyes bulge; fists are clenched. He is not the West End's most happy fella.

Until Monday the veteran impresario was also director of the Chichester Festival Theatre. A £600,000 loss on the year, a bust-up with the board, an outbreak of fear and loathing among the staff and a clash of violently opposed philosophies about how to keep this famous but precarious institution in business with virtually no public subsidy have put an end to that.

After a tumultuous weekend of rows Weldon quit Chichester, claiming that the board had breached his contract. The break is irrevocable; the feelings bitter. "Chichester has insurmountable financial difficulties," Weldon says. "But it's not my problem now."

At the heart of the matter is more than just a clash of personalities between Weldon, the freewheeling deal-maker who sends starry productions round the world, and Max Davies, chairman of the sedate Chichester board. Weldon believes that the only way forward for Chichester is to present plays just in the summer season: a 20-week festival of big names, big audiences, healthy profits, and bankable productions that he can transfer to the West End.

"I saw from the moment I got there that the theatre had to go back to being what it was when Laurence Olivier ran it: a summer seasonal venue, closed in the winter," he says. That is perhaps not the impression that Weldon gave to impartial observers when he took over the theatre three years ago — but it's certainly an opinion he expresses vehemently now. "There is no public subsidy to support a 12-month season, and too small an audience."

But many in Chichester have other ideas. They view the theatre as an all-year-round local asset. And of course the theatre staff are not amused by the prospect of being laid off for 30 weeks a year. "I recognise that I am not popular with the staff, who quite rightly see their livelihood going down the tubes because of what I'm saying," Weldon admits. "But I am a commercial producer. I can see that only draconian action will keep Chichester alive.

"The trouble is that Chichester's board and trustees are not knowledgeable theatre folk. There are 70 trustees, of whom 40 never come anywhere near the place. They have to realise that they are playing around in the commercial theatre. It's a high-risk game. I know — I've been in it for 30 years."

> ‘Only draconian action will keep Chichester alive’

This is not the first time in the theatre's 36-year history that a director has departed suddenly and sullenly. Six years ago Michael Rudman was dismissed after just one season, apparently for taking too many artistic risks for comfortable Sussex tastes.

But Weldon's tenure had begun so promisingly. For a start, he was no newcomer: over the decades he had transferred more than 30 Chichester productions to the West End. And he talked convincingly about restoring what he still refers to as "the third most important theatre organisation in Britain, after the National and RSC" to the centre of thespian life.

His plans were dazzling. Arriving in 1995 he offered a summer of wall-to-wall stars — Lauren Bacall, Derek Jacobi, Ian Richardson, Pinter, Keith Michell, Leo McKern — and the season turned in a tidy profit. The next year the mixture was as before. And although this produced a small loss, Weldon was given a five-year extension to his contract.

Then came the *annus horribilis* of 1997. A £600,000 deficit inexorably piled up, and the critical consensus was that the season had fewer highlights than Weldon's earlier two. Even allowing Weldon's point that "75 per cent" of the deficit was caused by the less successful winter season (which he does not present), how does he account for Chichester's sudden plunge in fortunes?

"Actually I think we are still very successful. We mounted 12 productions during the summer, we played to 200,000 people, and if we were even slightly subsidised we would have ended in profit. After all, £600,000 is just a fraction of West Yorkshire Playhouse's subsidy."

But Chichester *isn't* subsidised. Surely Weldon should have cut his coat according to his cloth? "Yes, but this year we were hit by two extraordinary factors. First, we lost Maureen Lipman from *Blithe Spirit* at the end of rehearsals. She was seriously ill, but that undoubtedly cost us £200,000. Then came the death of Princess Diana. That obliterated our business for two weeks, as it did in the West End and everywhere else."

The accusation from some in Chichester, however, is that Weldon was using Chichester to rehearse and fine-tune glamorous productions that he could then present profitably elsewhere. What is his answer to that? "Look, I bring in stars to do quality theatre. I've done that around the world, and that's what I was asked to do by the Chichester board. If I had been told that I couldn't take the productions elsewhere, I would not have accepted the job.

"I know that some people in Chichester resent the fact that shows like Zoe Wanamaker in *Electra* go on to be successful in London. I also accept that some people would like to turn Chichester into a repertory company with no stars. But if that's what they want, I am not the man for the job. They knew that from the start."

Perhaps they should also have known that Weldon, a tough metropolitan operator to his fingertips, was hardly the man to enjoy mingling socially with the Sussex squirearchy. "I have no interest in attending baby shows, going to local art galleries, or reading a lesson in the cathedral," he says. "My sole interest, 24 hours a day, is in putting on quality drama."

Events came to a head last Saturday. Weldon says that he was "pressurised" into agreeing to stay for just one year of his contracted four. Then on Monday, he says, his second-in-command was suspended from Chichester by the chairman. That, he argues, breaches the hire-and-fire terms of his own contract, and he is now seeking redress. "I cannot have an amateur board interfere with my professional integrity," he says.

What happens now? Weldon believes that if the season was cut to 20 weeks in the summer, with only eight plays spread over the main stage and the Minerva studio, Chichester could still be run without subsidy. However, an all-year theatre would require a level of support from local authorities and regional and national arts bodies that has not been forthcoming, and is even less likely now. And unlike Glyndebourne — Sussex's other bastion of unsubsidised culture — Chichester has no big corporate sponsors behind the scenes. Its trustees may now be wondering whether its days as a glorious anachronism are numbered. But as Weldon says, that is no longer his problem.

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CHANGING TIMES

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■ **RENEE FLEMING**
Great Opera Scenes
LSO/Solti
Decca 455 760-2 ★★★ *£15.49*

SIR GEORG SOLTI'S death in late summer alas put an end to a most rewarding operatic partnership with Renée Fleming. The American soprano had been the star of the conductor's last two Mozart sets, *Così* and *Don Giovanni*. Fortunately, he left behind this recital disc, wide-ranging and revealing Fleming's growing vocal resources.

Together they begin almost where they left off, with the Countess's two arias from *Figaro* taken very slowly by Solti to let the Fleming lustre show through. There is a shimmering account (in Czech) of *O silver moon* from Dvořák's *Rusalka*, an opera she has been singing all over America. But then the boundaries are pushed out to display the increasing security of her lower register.

Ellen Orford from *Grimes* may seem an unlikely role, but she gives the Embroidery aria, gently supported by Jonathan Summers, much warmth (and Solti is not too often heard in Britten). She remains mistress of the final emotional flourish at the end of a long aria, as Tatyana's troubled letter to *Onegin* proves. Most interesting of all is the close of *Daphne*, which suggests that Strauss's late heroines might provide her next career move. Here the orchestra has the last word and, perhaps in memory of Solti, that is how it should be.

Barry Millington

■ **HANDEL**
Organ Concertos
Nicholson/Brandenburg Consort/Goodman
Hyperion CDA67291/2
★★★ *£27.99*

THE great coup of this new recording of Handel's Organ Concertos by Paul Nicholson with the Brandenburg Consort under Roy Goodman is to have secured the instrument on which the composer played at St Lawrence Whitchurch. The organ has recently been restored by Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn as far as possible in the form in which Handel would have known it. Meaty diapasons and piquant *mutations and mixtures* are the result, all enhanced by a specially designed pitch and tuning system. The somewhat aggressive character of the instrument has inspired the performers to essay equally robust and forthright accounts of these works.

For a more relaxed approach, the new version from Bob van Asperen and the OAE (Virgin Veritas) can also be recommended, but it is the Hyperion set that casts the greater light, and Nicholson's playing is unfailingly stylish.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **BERG/SCHOENBERG**
Lyric Suite/Verklärte Nacht
Duke Quartet
Collins Classics 15062
★★★ *£14.49*

THE Duke Quartet, renowned for its sparky collaborations with Philip Glass, Siobhan Davies and Blur, now tackles two lurid human dramas in its latest discs of turn-of-the-century classics by Berg and Schoenberg.

Schoenberg *printed* the source of inspiration for his 1902 *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*) — a poem about an abandoned pregnant woman winning the undying love of a new suitor — in the programme at the work's first performance, and predictably caused a scandal. On the other hand, Berg's love affair with Hanna Fuchs, cryptically encoded within the 12-tone language of his *Lyric Suite*, remained undiscovered until the death of his wife in 1976.

Both works, better known in orchestrations, are presented here in their original chamber versions: the Schoenberg for string sextet, in a performance which fills a huge theatrical space, yet engages with searing intimacy; and the Berg for string quartet. As the Berg's fast movements get faster — from *Allegro gioviale* to *Presto delirando* — and its slow movements become slower — from *Andante amoroso* to *Largo desolato* — the Duke Quartet tunes close into the heart of the music's troubled nerve system. An excellent recording reveals its fine, tense balance of voices and keen rhythmic sense.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

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Lawrence James on the dreams of power that made Napoleon Emperor — and were his downfall

Victim of his own success

Napoleon never lost faith in himself. Even on St Helena, when picking over what had gone wrong, he blamed two convenient culprits: his subordinates and fate. It *is paradoxical that the man whom* the Romantic imagination portrayed as the spirit of the Enlightenment in arms against the forces of unreason and darkness was profoundly superstitious. Napoleon believed he was a child of fortune, a gambler who *relied on luck and a benevolent star* which directed his destiny.

In this brilliant biography, which will surely become a classic life of Napoleon, McLynn analyses his complex and contradictory motives and sets him and them in the context *of the world he strove to reshape.* The author rightly stresses the unresolved inner struggle between the rational, modern man and the credulous stargazer who claimed that a "little red man" advised him whenever he was about to take a crucial decision. Playing host to phantoms may well have been part of Napoleon's Corsican inheritance, which provided what McLynn calls the "primitive" strain in his temperament. It also showed itself by displays of loutishness, outbursts of spleen, an addiction to chicanery and sexual selfishness. Corsica also provided Napoleon with a family which clung to his coat tails and proved a liability throughout his career.

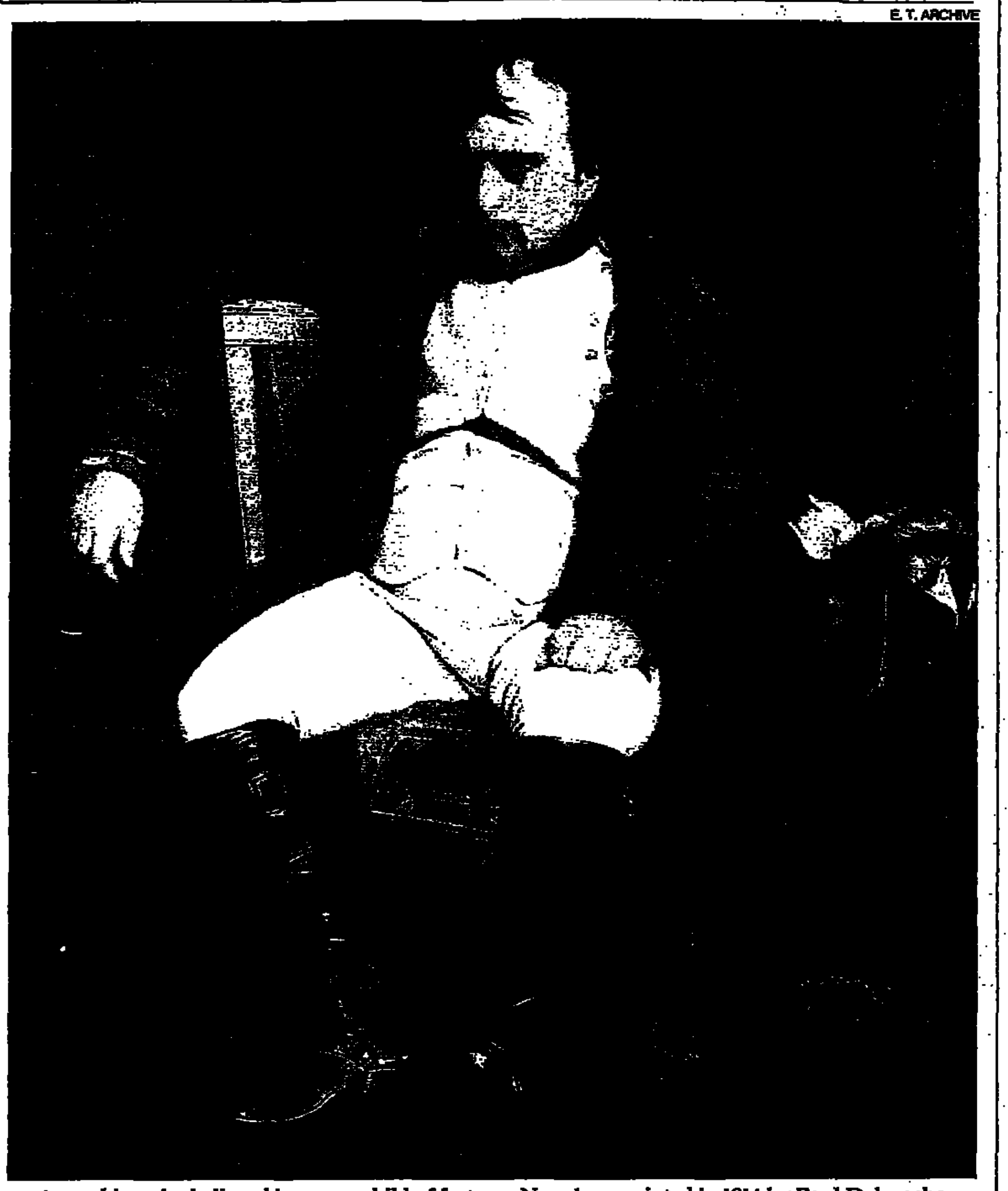
NAPOLEON
By Frank McLynn
Jonathan Cape, £25
ISBN 0 224 04072 3

It was the French Revolution, designed to place reason in control of human affairs, which gave Napoleon his chances. The malcontent subaltern moved steadily upwards and, in the process, fulfilled private Caesarean fantasies. He made himself invaluable to those with power, but avoided close attachment to any particular cause. The breakthrough came after his Egyptian adventure of 1798-99, when force, effrontery and reputation procured him the consulship which opened the way to an imperial crown.

Napoleon's victories had clearly caught the imagination of France and sowed the seeds of a legend which would be carefully cultivated by his propaganda machine. But the First Consul was enough of a pragmatist to appreciate that a *slavish press and popular prints of* David's heroic canvases were not the foundations of an enduring personal dictatorship. Apolitical, Napoleon resorted to plebiscites in which he appealed directly to the self-interest of those like himself who had done well *out of the Revolution. Stability* and the right of property were his catchwords and they won over the bourgeoisie and the richer peasants who wanted the chance to enjoy their gains in peace and prosper. The Rights of Man were applied selec*tively and Liberty, Equality and* Fraternity, which had given France a decade of turbulence, discreetly sidelined.

In their place was the pursuit of *Gloire*, which turned so many young heads and added lustre to Napoleon's prestige. Moreover, soldiering in the Grande Armée was highly profitable. Napoleon turned a blind eye to his commanders' greed (which he shared) and, as McLynn points out, many French generals were little more than brigands in cocked hats. Progress and Modernisation continued under Napoleon, but was regulated in the interests of the French State by a centralised bureaucracy. Dissent, whether from the Royalist Right or the Jacobin Left, was stifled by the secret police.

Napoleonic France inherited its predecessors' conflicts with Britain over the dispensation of world power (now very much in favour of the latter) and with the *ancien régime* monarchies of Austria, Prussia and Russia over the ordering of Europe. There was also the Emperor's Alexandrian dream of conquest in the Middle East and Asia where French armies would regenerate decayed civilisations with injections of the new Enlightenment. The scope of Napoleon's ambitions and Britain's determination to scotch them made war unavoidable.


E.T. ARCHIVE

A gambler who believed he was a child of fortune: Napoleon painted in 1814 by Paul Delaroche

It was a contest of stamina and resources and, after the Russian debacle, Napoleon was running short of both. His continental puppet states were swallowed up by France and their citizens became victims of the Grande Armée's insatiable demands for cash and conscripts. How long these burdens could have been sustained without serious unrest, or whether it could have been contained, can only be guessed at. By 1813, Brittany, long a hotbed of Bourbon resistance, had become almost ungovernable and there was evasion of the draft throughout Napoleon's Empire.

Facing defeat, Napoleon pictured himself as a Promethean figure betrayed by fate. For Frenchmen, the horrors of invasion were stark enough to convince them that they were better off without a man of destiny. Indeed, when Napoleon had gone, the bulk of his servants became loyal subjects of Louis XVIII; Talleyrand, Soult and legions of functionaries surpassed their former master in the art of political survival. Three million soldiers of the Grande Armée did not survive, having died in battle or from sickness.

The Napoleonic myth lived on. Stendhal's young heroes attempted to base their lives on it and Byron lamented the loss of an heroic liberal spirit who had endeavoured to overcome all that was evil in his time. There was some truth in this: Europe's *anciens régimes* never recovered from Napoleon's assaults and, in time, were transformed by the ideas he had claimed to champion. He had raised French nationalism to a level of dangerous hubris, and, unwittingly, did the same for British and Spanish. Again, unintentionally, he had delivered Britain global supremacy and drawn Russia into the centre stage of European affairs, where it has remained ever since. When Stalin was asked what it felt like to stand on Frederick the Great's parade ground at Potsdam, he remarked that Tsar Alexander I had ridden into Paris.

Lawrence James's Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India, *is published by Little, Brown, priced £25.*

No case for laying blame on the dead

Historians are supposed to be clinically detached, but Sheldon Watts's exploration of the pestilences of the past seethes with passion. Successive chapters vividly recreate the suffering and devastation brought about over the centuries by bubonic plague, leprosy, smallpox, cholera, yellow fever and malaria.

Imagine going down with cholera in 1830. You grew nauseous and dizzy. Stomach cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea rapidly followed, and your stools turned to a grey liquid known as rice water. You passed up to 10 litres in 24 hours before dehydration set in. You could wake up hale and hearty but be a corpse tomorrow. There was no cure. It was a terrible way to die — indeed, it can be still, and the current cholera pandemic, starting in 1961 in Indonesia and rampant in Asia and South America, is the longest pandemic ever.

The real scandal, in Watts's view, is that such catastrophes, far from being inevitable accidents of nature, were, and remain, the avoidable products of human agency or neglect. To be precise, it is the triumph of the West which has *aggravated these killer diseases.* Capitalism has wrecked stable ecological and social systems, and imperialist greed has created the ideal environments for malaria, TB and Aids. In short, development spreads disease.

For those who, like myself, were brought up at school on heroic stories of medical missionaries, Watts's message may seem mean. Yet no one can deny his book is well-documented: ample evidence is adduced to show that, be it in medieval Europe or modernising Ethiopia, the measures jointly taken by civil and medical authorities to prevent pestilence or counter plague commonly did sufferers precious little good, and often made bad worse.

Indeed, Watts argues, such policies were often actually intended to be punitive, as priests and physicians would hold natives or paupers responsible for bringing disease about in the first place. The authorities often regarded the diseased as more threatening than the diseases, and epidem*ics frequently triggered victim*-blaming and oppression.

Thus Europe's first pogroms against the Jews were launched to assuage God's wrath at the height of the Black Death. Later on, doling out smallpox-infected blankets to native Indians, North American colonists might turn pathogens into weapons of war, while crediting the outcome to "the good hand of God". Based in Cairo and hence immune from automatic Eurocentrism, Watts is as sceptical of the medical profession as of the governments and business interests they ultimately served. His case carries much conviction.

Yet *Epidemics and History* also suffers from overkill, because Watts cannot resist the itch to pass sentence upon the dead. Physicians are scolded if they intervened ineptly — for example by setting up leper colonies, when they had no effective treatments. But they *are equally censured* for inaction.

Roy Porter

EPIDEMICS AND HISTORY
Disease, Power and Imperialism
By Sheldon Watts
Yale, £29.95
ISBN 0 300 07015 2

Whatever doctors did was wrong, seems to be Watts's cynical line — a judgment which follows from his conviction that the medical profes*sion blindly clung to worthless* "flat-earth false knowledge". Thus the Victorian John Snow, the first to demonstrate how cholera is communicated via contaminated water, gets a rap over the knuckles, since he neglected to peer down a microscope and so failed to discover the cholera bacillus. The verdict is anachronistic and preachy.

The upshot is a kind of history-by-hindsight which ironically echoes the moral superiority of the imperialists here so scathingly denounced. Nevertheless, Watts's urge to affix blame springs from a generous rage on behalf of humanity, and this trenchant book provides a salutary antidote to world health complacency past and present.

Roy Porter's latest book, The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History, *is published by HarperCollins, priced £24.99.*

Wild men of the city who had to pick a pocket or two

Ian McIntyre returns to Defoe in a quest for true 18th-century London

"The two most fascinating subjects in the Universe," Brigid Brophy once asserted in a celebrated generalisation, "are sex and the 18th century." I don't quarrel about the period, but a decent case could be made for deleting sex and inserting crime.

Criminal biography was already established as a genre by the middle 1600s. Indeed, it afforded a lucrative if unusual perk for the chaplain of Newgate Prison, who enjoyed the sole right to publish the dying speeches and lives of those of his charges whom the hangman "turned off" on Tyburn Tree. Grub Street hacks also got in on the act. The most successful of them was the self-styled "Captain" Alexander Smith, whose *Complete History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwayman* appeared in 1713 and quickly went through five editions.

THE THIEVES' OPERA
The Remarkable Lives of Jonathan Wild, Thief-Taker and Jack Sheppard, House-Breaker
By Lucy Moore
Viking, £20
ISBN 0 670 87215 6

Although Viking has allowed her more than 30 *handsome illustrations, most*ly engravings by Hogarth, I rather doubt whether Lucy Moore will ring the bell quite as loudly as that. She tells the stories of two notorious criminals hanged at Tyburn in the 1720s. *Jonathan Wild, a Staf*fordshire man, pimp and racketeer, ran London's largest criminal network. He did so behind the bold front of a "thief-taker". In 1720 he was consulted by the Privy Council on how to deal with the capital's rising crime rate; the Prince and Princess of Wales also sought his advice about a gold watch which had been stolen from one of their *attendants.*

A master of high-octane humbug, he had no need of spin-doctors. A newspaper paragraph described a robbery at a house in Bridgewater Square one Sunday: "Jonathan Wild was consulted that evening, but he, good man! was pleased to tell those that applied to him, that he did no business on the Lord's Day." Mr Michael Cole, that suave guardian of the Vestal flame at Harrods, could not have put it better.

Lucy Moore's second subject is Jack Sheppard, who started out by working "the buttock and file" — robbing men lured by prostitutes into unlit alleyways. He later specialised in housebreaking, and became famous for a number of Houdini-like escapes from prison. He was hanged in 1724, and his "dying speech" may well have been ghosted by Defoe.

Why attempt yet again something that has already been done often and well?

Moore: sidetracks over ground already well-covered

Moore explains that she saw their lives as "means through which I could explore and discuss aspects of the society in which they lived — its rituals and mores as well as the day-to-day details of living and surviving."

She attempts this in a series of what are termed "digressions" on such topics as hanging and prison life. There were moments when I felt overwhelmed by the volume of information that was being thrust at me: Jean Brodie is one of my heroines, but I am resistant to any impression that I am being addressed schoolmarmishly.

The writing is not free of received opinion: "In 18th-century Europe, London was the apogee of sophistication and fashionable life." But if that were so, French *costumières* would hardly have sent over little dolls dressed in the style of the year; nor would there have been such a ready sale for publications like *The Ladies' Toilet*, a translation of a Paris manual describing the 45 ways of dressing a lady's hair.

There are occasional obscurities. The upper classes, we are told, "lived within a *cordon sanitaire* of political dogma and self-appeasing paternalism". And contradictions. "The impersonal nature of living in a large city," Moore writes, "combined with the transience of much of the *population, prevented the cre*ation of a sense of communal feeling." The publisher's blurb, however, maintains that 18th-century London "was a city more intimate and communal than its modern-*day counterpart". Nor is the* text free of topographical slips — the churchyard of St Martin-in-the-Fields was not at the foot of Drury Lane but where the National Gallery now stands.

For anyone eager to visit in imagination the gin-shops and brothels and flash-houses of London in the 1720s, when Jonathan Wild rode out on his shady assignments "stuck round with pistols, as thick as an orange with cloves", Daniel Defoe remains the preferred guide.

In clear sight

IT IS not surprising that both this year and last the Portuguese novelist José Saramago, whose latest novel, *Blindness*, has just been published (Harvill, £14.99; ISBN 1 86046 298 7) was a favourite to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. He writes a prose of particularly luminous intensity, brilliantly rendered into English by his regular translator Giovanni Pontiero.

The themes he chooses are sweepingly ambitious — passionate parables of a contemporary society which he perceives as poised on the edge of breakdown. The works which made his reputation in the English-speaking world — *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis, The History of the Siege of Lisbon, The Stone Raft* — recall García Márquez for their epic reach and Primo Levi for their insight into the fragility of human nature under adversity.

In *Blindness*, a man going about his everyday life is struck suddenly and inexplicably blind. Blindness spreads like a contagion through the city; panic sets in. The afflicted are incarcerated in an abandoned asylum; their families are quarantined; as the epidemic spreads unchecked, the city's organisation reveals its pitiful inadequacy to the task of maintaining order.

Within the asylum the victims of the blindness are reduced to the condition of *animals. In their midst,* however, is a single woman, "the doctor's wife", who chose to feign blindness to accompany her husband into incarceration. Miraculously she retains her sight, and with it her integrity. *Led by her,* a small group of inmates manages to cling to a semblance of order.

Blindness is an obvious parable — struck blind, the doctor and his wife understand that it was when they had their sight that they saw least. "If you can see, look. If you can look, observe," exhorts Saramago's epigram.

Yet the searing account of life in the asylum so painfully mirrors the testimonies of those incarcerated in the Nazi death camps that at points I found *Blindness* almost intolerable. Like the atrocities committed more recently in the name of order and national safety in Bosnia, such sheer mindless inhumanity towards the unfortunate carries its moral message incised on its forehead. In the end, though, I am not alone, I feel sure, in finding it hard to see beyond the gripping symbolism of horror to take comfort in the novel's conclusion.

LISA JARDINE

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VENEREAS
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The dangers of venereal disease; from *Plague, Pox and Pestilence*, Ed. Kenneth F. Kipple (Weidenfeld, £25)

Artist of the floating world

Joanna Pitman

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
By Arthur Golden
Chatto & Windus, £9.99
ISBN 0 7011 6674 6

The Japanese narrator of this extraordinary fictional memoir, Sayuri *Nitta, was once one of Japan's* most celebrated geishas. Sold at the age of nine by her poor fisherman father in 1930, Nitta was sent to the famous geisha district of Gion in the southern city of Kyoto, where she was *thrown uncomprehending* into the world of oppression, harsh discipline and competitive beauty. With the help of her wits, her elegance, her unusual blue grey eyes, and a great deal of luck, Nitta survived the fierce rivalries within her own geisha house, lived through the war and eventually rose to become one of Japan's greatest ladies of the night, singing, dancing and entertaining the highest ranks of Japan's elite.

In 1956, she escaped the rigid controls and the restraining nets of debt and honour of the geisha lifestyle and went to live in New York, supported by her male patron. There she created a unique salon of Japanese elegance and etiquette in her apartment in the Waldorf Towers, singing, dancing and entertaining visiting Japanese clients. And it was there, shortly before she died in 1996, that she decided to break the geisha's proud code of silence and tell the intimate tale of her life.

That the story is fictional matters not. From the very first page, Nitta's tender and entrancing story transports the reader into one of Japan's *most secretive and intriguing* realms of power, laying bare its extreme cruelties, its beauty, its despair and its erotic pleasures. Arthur Golden is a gentle and beautiful writer and a true original. With his *powerful and fecund imagination*, he has given Nitta a voice that is both innocent and seductive, leaving her to unravel her own erotic psychology in a tale that is as delicately drawn as an exquisite Utamaro wood block print. And Golden's eye for aesthetic detail gives us a wonderfully vivid picture of the highly stylised geisha life in Gion in the 1920s and 1930s.

He draws our attention to wooden geta shoeprints on fresh snow, vivid splashes of colour and symbolic design on kimonos, carmine lips on white face paint, the creation of the fabulous geisha hair*styles. And throughout we are* given an understanding of the painful gap between the geisha's "public persona" and the "real self", the unhappiness and the bitter fights for prominence in this world of extreme *rivalries.*

Meticulous research has been done into a world carefully and deliberately hidden from the prying eyes of outsiders. If you visit Gion today you might be lucky enough to see a geisha in full kimono regalia on her way to a party. But there are fewer and fewer willing to put up with the rigours and restrictions of geisha life. And none of them will tell their story if they are true geisha. This is an epic tale and a beautiful evocation of a rapidly vanishing world.

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Roy Porter

EPIDEMICS AND HISTORY
Disease, Power and Imperialism
By Sheldon Watts

Her light undimmed as time goes by

Claire Bloom remembers Ingrid Bergman and admires a sensitive account of her turbulent life

Many of Ingrid Bergman's most outstanding screen roles were those of young and vulnerable women; the masochistic barmaid in *Jekyll and Hyde*; the double agent forced to marry a man she despises in *Notorious*; the brainwashed wife in *Gaslight*. Although her off-screen persona appeared to project an aura of joyous expectation, the deeper truth, as is revealed in Donald Spoto's excellent and moving biography, was to be found in her complicated and psychologically well-observed film performances.

Ingrid Bergman's mother died when her daughter was three and the loss of his young wife plunged Ingrid's father into a depression from which he was slow to recover. A photograph of father and daughter together is remarkably revealing. A composed and beautiful child sits with her arm protectively around the shoulder of her father; her head is tilted toward his, and he responds to her caress with a faint smile. She is the giver and protector, he the wary recipient. They closely resemble one another.

Justus Bergman was born of a cultivated musical family. His greatest enthusiasm was for the recently invented movie camera, and photographing his exquisite blue-eyed daughter became an obsession. Small wonder, then, that when in later years Ingrid was asked why she had chosen to be an actress, she replied: "I didn't choose it, it had chosen me."

But her beloved father died when she was in her early teens; at age 18, Bergman succeeded in entering Sweden's prestigious Royal Dramatic Theatre School. "She has too much the appearance of a country girl, but is very natural, and is a type that doesn't need makeup on her face or her mind," was noted on her entry form.

The young dentist who was to become her first husband, Petter Lindström, proved to be a rigid and dominant partner; soon after their marriage, he assumed the role of guardian and professional counsellor. Ingrid soon found herself capitulating to all his demands. She was torn between the desire to commit herself to a controlling male partner, and so to feel herself protected, and the equally burning need, as an intelligent and gifted woman, to have the freedom to be able to express her own powerful being.

During the first two years of her marriage, Ingrid made several minor Swedish films; but shortly before the birth of her daughter, Pia, a film was released that was to bring Bergman to the attention of the Hollywood impresario David Selznick. Only two days after Pia's birth, Bergman received an emissary from Selznick in her hospital room, and, with Petter there to vet every detail, a contract was drawn for her to make the American version of her Swedish success, *Intermezzo*. "Sweden seemed so small ... I felt I had to get to a bigger country ... but I was scared to death Hollywood wouldn't like me." Despite her misgivings, Bergman's performance immediately won her recognition as a major screen presence.

Her first director: the young Ingrid Bergman posed with her father

The triumphant years in Hollywood are splendidly recounted by Donald Spoto; Bergman worked with film's finest directors and played opposite many of the great leading men of her time. But the real fascination of this engrossing biography dates from the time when the glitter had worn off, and Bergman was eagerly seeking a fresher and less predictable form of self-expression. For when she was only into her thirties, and after an amazing list of dazzling performances, Ingrid had begun to be offered only run-of-the mill screen roles. Disenchanted with the limited possibilities that seemed open to her and trapped in a loveless marriage, Bergman's entire world was to be revolutionised when she attended a viewing of Roberto Rossellini's jagged masterpiece, *Rome Open City*. She wrote to Rossellini, expressing her great interest in his work: he responded by offering to create a role for her in a film to be named *Stromboli*. Bergman agreed, and the scene was set for a passionate love affair.

NOTORIOUS
By Donald Spoto
HarperCollins, £19.99
ISBN 0 00 255786 X

The filming of *Stromboli* was, as Spoto so well relates, by all accounts a nightmare; but throughout the turmoil, Ingrid never lost her patience or her enthusiasm for the project. Unfortunately, the resulting film was disappointing; but by then, back in Hollywood, all hell had broken loose.

Ingrid wrote a touching letter to her husband telling him their marriage was over; the press were immediately alerted. A major scandal broke out. Bergman was denounced for immorality by the Roman Catholic church, publicly condemned in the United States Senate; *Stromboli* was banned in most American cities.

Bergman was falling as firmly under Rossellini's influence as she had been under Lindström's. At Roberto's jealous insistence, Ingrid worked only on Rossellini films, and none of them was to succeed either financially or artistically. The couple were constantly in debt. Attacks in the press continued; few voices were raised in her support, but one of those was that of Cary Grant: "Dearest Ingrid," he wired, "It would not be possible in a single telegram to tell you of all your friends who send you love and affection."

In 1956, Bergman returned to the theatre in a French production of Robert Anderson's play, *Tea and Sympathy*. She began to reclaim her life and career: the price of this was to be her marriage to Rossellini, whose own career was now in shambles. In 1956 the American public deigned to forget and forgive; Bergman returned to appear in the film of *Anastasia*, one of her most successful roles.

With the release of this film, for which she won yet another Academy Award, it was time for her to be — in Spoto's words — "restored to glory".

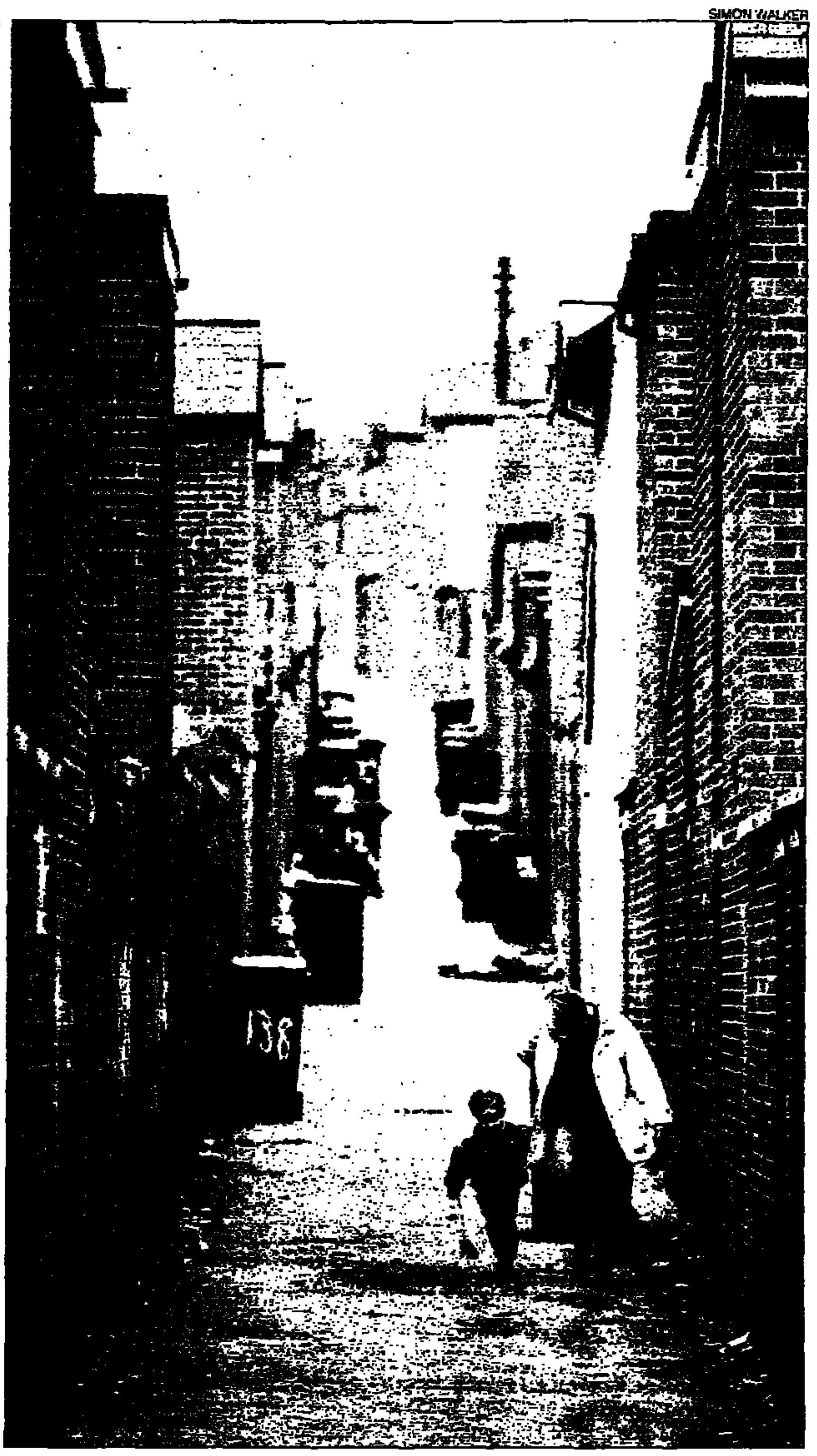
In the early 1960s, Bergman decided to return again to the theatre, which had always been her greatest solace. That she was able to do this smoothly was in part due to her relationship with the Swedish producer Lars Schmidt, whom she was later to marry. He had arranged for her to return to Stockholm in a highly-regarded production of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. Other theatre projects followed in London and New York. Pia, now a young woman, was able to approach her mother once again, and together they found a new relationship. Her children with Rossellini were also near by, and Ingrid's life appeared to have recovered from the stress and misery of her middle years.

In 1977, she returned to the screen in Ingmar Bergman's *Autumn Sonata*, which was, in my opinion, by far her greatest screen performance. But the cancer which had first struck her in the 1960s could not be kept at bay, though she continued to work and refused to complain. In *Golda Meir*, the most unlikely role imaginable for the tall, still beautiful Swede — and her final role — she managed to bring to life this indomitable Jewish woman.

Retiring to live quietly in a flat facing the river in London, Bergman, now generally known to be ill, became a much loved citizen of this great city. I recall seeing her, sitting straight and cycling fast and well, riding by on the Embankment. She looked wonderful; only the close-fitting woollen cap she wore hinting that she was still in the clutches of chemotherapy. And again, when I was playing in Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*, at the Haymarket Theatre in 1978, Miss Bergman climbed a considerable flight of stairs to my dressing room to congratulate me on my performance — and I was an actress whom she scarcely knew. I remember so clearly her radiant, effortless beauty.

Although they were now divorced, he having left her for another woman, Lars Schmidt was devoted and loyal to the end. Together they paid a visit to Stockholm and then Bergman asked to be taken to the Swedish island that had been their home and where she had always found herself so much at peace. There Ingrid Bergman died on the evening of her 67th birthday. Spoto tenderly describes her last day. All her children had telephoned and she was able to speak to each of them. "There, you see, I have made it through another year."

SIMON WALKER



Belfast backstreets, the week of the Shankill Fish Shop bomb, 23 October, 1993

Taking a byte at Belfast

Sebastian Barry

THE STAR FACTORY
By Ciaran Carson
Granta, £13.99
ISBN 1 86207 072 5

THIS is Ciaran Carson's Book of Belfast, as elaborate and coiled as any Book of Kells, except its decoration is contained not in the embellishment of capital letters and margins, but in the passionate, controlled twisting and eddying of the text. The heartfelt design is in the sentences themselves.

There's linguistic ease here, the susurrus and seduction of words and the confidence of a great music-maker, as if the listeners were already there — and indeed the book begins with a descripton of the young Carson listening to his father telling a story through the door of "the library" (the *jacks* by any other name), whither Carson has followed him, so as not to miss a stitch of the tale. To describe, to speak under the focus of love and mutability is everything.

Here and there he merges or slips into a pedantry that doesn't have the blade of a Borges in it. It's a book, also, surprisingly without much to move you. Its pleasures are otherwise — artfulness dancing as much as it can just this side of artifice, the vigour of strange necessities. "I load myself with chains and try to get out of them," as the poet Austin Clarke wrote of his own method.

There's a sense throughout of the book being written under your very eyes, it is that immediate. The reader sits in the writer's chair, as it were. Or at least the teller is very close at hand. The dates of composition are supplied (finished in April of this year) and throughout he is actively looking up references, checking this and that, or registering that the evidence is temporarily unavailable elsewhere. And it is very much, surprisingly, a work dependent on the nature of the personal computer rather than Carson's discarded Imperial typewriter — patches of matter growing and spreading like lichen over the empty spaces of a rock.

How ancient, you think, almost prehuman, the PC is in its nature — how like the mysterious human brain in its floatingness. So *The Star Factory*, radiating from its decentralised centres like benign viruses, is both a paean to and a prose poem of the PC, and as such is an exemplar of the famous Carson "method" — to let the language leak from thimble to thimble, to find accidents and rightnesses to link his chosen buoys and points and patterns convincingly. A temporal text and as such a kind of hostage to history.

Streets and their maps in the classic Carson style, photographs minutely described and set against each other, memories of school, fetishistically retrieved childhood objects, items re-seen so fervently you feel sometimes that you are from Mars, stories of his father, extracts from other Belfast books, night thoughts, confidences about his artistic methods, all rumbling and connecting in what can only be described as a sort of patient maelstrom.

There are many dangers and risks in this procedure, and a huge level of energy and focus is needed in the writing, because the level of diffusion is in itself enormous. The scatter of subject is continuous and the book is breaking up underneath your gaze the whole time, even as he seeks to unify and coalesce with further matter. Chaos theory comes forcibly to mind, those attractive but vaguely menacing spirals that computers illustrate so beautifully, so dishearteningly. And therein perhaps lies the riskiness that the publisher mentions on the book's dust-jacket.

But the purpose of the book is kept admirably constant, to make a kind of spinning, turning city of the mind: Carson City, in fact. A text as a sort of smoking gun. An idiosyncratic, strange, mazy book to challenge notions of structural decorum, and offering the steps to a dance that, though wild enough, is in the end a critique of chaos.

Topped with hundreds and thousands

Roger Scruton

QUESTIONING THE MILLENNIUM
By Stephen Jay Gould
Cape, £12.99
ISBN 0 224 04389 7

Stephen Jay Gould belongs to a new and growing literary species: the "science writer", who, while an acknowledged expert in his field, is concerned more to communicate discoveries than to make them. Gould's overwhelming desire is to use science to cast light on our condition — not the human condition only, but the condition of late-20th-century man. In *Questioning the Millennium* he considers just what it means to describe ourselves in such a way. Why count time in weeks and years? Why organise arithmetic around the number ten? Why attach such importance to centuries? And why get so worked up about the year that we call the *millennium*, when we don't even know whether we are counting correctly? The result is a slight and somewhat bemused survey of the human facts which make three noughts into a symbol of angelic intervention.

The nonsense began with St John the Divine, who tells us in Revelation that he "saw an angel come down from heaven ... And he laid hold on ... Satan, and bound him a thousand years ... And when the thousand years expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison ..." St John's emphasis on the thousand year period arises in the context of a peculiar religious belief: the belief in sudden and catastrophic interventions from on high. His particular prophetic utterance was the first of many. After the lapse of a thousand years, we have been repeatedly told, God's purpose will be suddenly revealed, fulfilled, or may be tragically thwarted. And since we don't know when to count from, such prophecies can never be refuted, but only compulsively accepted and acted upon — usually with terrible results.

Many studies have been made of "millenarianism", and the cults which sprang from it in the Middle Ages, Norman Cohn's *Pursuit of the Millennium* being perhaps the most famous. Gould passes a quick eye over this fascinating material, looking with abstract compassion on the fools who have imagined the world to be constructed according to the arbitrary principles of their own ways of counting. Oddly, however, he does not explore the psychological heart of millenarianism, which is the "catastrophe theory of history": the theory which holds that the final release and redemption of man comes about only through the violent destruction of his own efforts to achieve it. The most recent, and also most influential, version of this theory was put forward not as a religion but as a science — by Karl Marx. And when you study the spirit in which this "science" was put forward, and the unscrupulous case that was made for it, you will, I think, be more disposed to anger than compassion. And the same ought to be true, to my way of thinking, of the medieval cults which destroyed so many innocent lives and left no spiritual, moral or artistic legacy worth referring to.

Gould: reluctant sceptic

Still, Gould is more interested in the theory of calendars and the human fascination with zeros. The rest of his short book consists in a series of agreeable asides, from which you can learn much about the ancient, modern, Jewish and Islamic calendars, and about Dionysius Exiguus, who established the Christian system of dating in terms of AD and BC, and who made a total horlicks of it. The asides continue to the end of the book, which only then do you realise is not about the millennium at all, but about the non-existence of millenniums. The author's mild and sentimental tone of voice neutralises any sceptical conclusions, and offers no heartening support to those of us who loathe the millennium and all that it stands for, and who loathe nothing more than the Disneyland version of humanity that is being manufactured to welcome it.

Vanishing trick from the lady in red

Jason Cowley

THE RED HAT
By John Bayley
Duckworth, £15.99
ISBN 0 7156 2802 X

READING the first few pages of the new novel by John Bayley is like watching the performance of an inept ventriloquist: no matter how hard he tries he cannot disguise the movement of his lips. For what Bayley does here, boldly for a writer entering the long twilight of his career, is attempt to speak naturally in the voice of a young woman.

His narrator's name is Nancy Deverell and she is streetsmart, capricious, a little reckless. But, at times, she doesn't really sound like a woman at all; she sounds like ... well, Bayley. She shares his baffled wonder at modernity, his fogeyish politics and reactionary zeal.

Her favourite insult is, touchingly, to call someone "naff", and she repeatedly pokes fun at the pretensions of "modern artists", at feminists; and, for one who is so young, she also seems unusually preoccupied with political correctness.

Yet all this is no more than opening-night nerves — for all his eminence as an academic and critic, Bayley remains an apprentice novelist. Once he settles down, relaxes into his role, as it were, *The Red Hat* is not a bad novel at all. It poses interesting questions as to whether we can ever truly know other people — or indeed, after Freud, ourselves.

The engaging plot concerns a visit by Nancy and her friends, Cloe and Charles, to the Vermeer exhibition in the Hague. Nancy, strikingly resembling the artist's portrait of *The Girl with the Red Hat*, quickly becomes entangled in a net of duplicity and mistaken identity about which she writes with breathy excitement. The first part of the book ends with her disappearance.

The baton of narrative responsibility then passes to Roland, a dilettante and failed writer whom Cloe instructs to find Nancy, now thought to be living somewhere in Provence. Cloe is in possession of her friend's account of their stay in the Hague, but denounces it as ridiculous and "unreliable". Roland shares her scepticism until he eventually catches up with Nancy in France, and is then gripped by an existential terror.

All this is diverting enough. But you leave it thinking that *The Red Hat* is a novel from which a darker, more complex metaphysical quest narrative, turning on questions of self-deception, solipsism and sexual dislocation, is struggling to get out.

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Chancery Division

Law Report November 20 1997

Applicant creditors cannot obtain advantage

In re Buckingham International plc

Before Mr Justice Harman

[Judgment November 5]

The court had reached a clear conclusion that there was no power in the Insolvency Act 1986 which *it ought* to use to enable applicant creditors to obtain an advantage over others of their class.

Mr Justice Harman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an ordinary application brought by Louis David Holloway and Geoffrey John Mitchell, creditors of Buckingham International plc, who sought an order, inter alia:

"That in the event of a winding up *order being* made on the petition presented to this court herein on May 21, 1996 the rights conferred on the liquidator of the company by section 183(1) [of the 1986 Act] in respect of writs of garnishment obtained in the State of Florida, in the United States of America, be set aside in favour of the applicants pursuant to section 183(2)(c) and/or that the applicants be at liberty to retain the fruits and/or benefit of the said writs of garnishment notwithstanding the winding up order made herein."

In September 1986 those creditors had sold their shares in a business to Leisure Time International plc which in July 1989 changed its name to Buckingham International plc. *Completion* was due in February 1988 but the creditors' entitlement to the purchase price was disputed by Buckingham which started proceedings against them.

The trial took *place* in the summer of 1996 and in July Mr Justice Ferris gave judgment in favour of the creditors for some £3.6 million. The money was not *paid and in April 1995 the banks* appointed administrative receivers under their debentures.

Mr Eben Hamilton, QC and Mr Robin Hollington for the applicant creditors; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr William *Trower for the* respondent liquidators.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that Mr Holloway and Mr Mitchell were unchallengeable judgment creditors of Buckingham.

However, Buckingham was under the control of administrative receivers whose duties were to pay first, debts secured by fixed charges; second, to pay preferential creditors and third, to pay the remaining debts secured by floating charges. Only after those claims had been satisfied would there be assets available for other creditors, whether judgment creditors or not.

The judgment creditors noticed that assets of Buckingham included debts *due in the United* States of America and obtained an order in *Florida* recognising the English judgment as creating a judgment debt. Thereupon they issued seven writs of garnishment in respect of seven subsidiaries of *Buckingham to the parent* company.

As a consequence the receivers presented a winding up petition in May 1996 and an application for the appointment of provisional liquidators. Mr Justice Knox made that order and also ordered the provisional liquidators to apply in the appropriate court in America for orders pursuant to section 304 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

In May 1996 the provisional liquidators filed a petition in the United States Federal Bankruptcy Court which sought to restrain the judgment creditors under section *304 of the Code from enforcing* in the United States of America the English judgment which they held.

The petition was acceded to subject to an application being made to the English High Court, *which was seised of the winding* up proceedings of the company, for determination whether as a matter of English law the court would permit the judgment creditors to proceed to enforce the debt.

In June 1996 the ordinary application was issued which sought an order that "the rights conferred on the liquidator ... by section 183(1) ... be set aside in favour of the applicants pursuant to section 183(2)(c) ..." In July 1996 the usual compulsory order was made winding up Buckingham and the provisional liquidators were now the liquidators.

The form of relief seemed to be very inept. Section 183(1) did not expressly confer rights on liquidators as suggested by *the form* of the ordinary application but referred to a creditor who "has issued execution ... *has* attached any debt" although it gave rise to a benefit to liquidators.

The words in subsection (1) were *plainly directed* to enforcement procedures in English courts. They did not seem to be intended to affect processes in foreign jurisdictions. The words seemed simply to express the obvious conclusion of any competent lawyer reading the section.

The ordinary application then referred to section 183(2)(c) which provided that "the rights conferred ... on the liquidator may be set aside by the court in favour of the creditor to such extent ... as the court thinks fit."

The provision gave no guidance of any sort to the judge as to what matters he should take into account in considering whether he "thinks fit" to "set aside rights". The whole undirected width of the subsection seemed to be unhelpful but had stood for a long time on the statute book.

That point was taken by Mr Justice Blackburne who had decided that the court had no power under section 183 to give directions about enforcement under foreign laws in foreign jurisdictions.

The Court of Appeal, for reasons which did not seem to be very clearly thought through, allowed the judgment creditors' appeal in January 1997. His Lordship got most help from *Lord Justice* Millett's judgment.

The court held *that since the* United States court had deferred to the English court and considered, plainly rightly, that decisions on English law applying to an English winding up would be better made by an English court, it was *wrong to reject the ordinary* application altogether.

His Lordship accepted the thrust of the Court of Appeal's view and considered that the most appropriate foundation for the application of the many powers given to the court by the *1986* Act was that conferred by section 168(5) which provided that "... the court may *confirm reverse or modify* the act complained of and make such order ... as *it* thinks fit".

In order to consider what exercise the court should make of its powers to "order ... as it thinks fit", if section 168(5) was the proper origin of the jurisdiction, or, if the application was truly pursuant to section 167(3) so that the court was exercising its control over the liquidators the same basic issue must arise.

Even if the relevant power was founded upon section 183(2)(c) an almost identical issue fell for decision.

The thrust of the decision had to be based on doing justice in the sense of holding an even balance between the interests of the judgment creditors on the one hand and the interest, not of the liquidators but of the class whom the liquidators represented, that was, all the other unsecured creditors of the company in liquidation on the *other hand.*

If the judgment creditors were able to proceed with their writs of garnishment they would obtain payment of unsecured, although judgment debt or at least a large part of it.

The assets available to the liquidators would be largely reduced and the dividend payable in the liquidation to the other unsecured creditors would be reduced accordingly.

The competition was between creditors and creditors of the same class. It was not a competition between creditors of any class and the members of the company.

His Lordship had already announced that he proposed to *dismiss the ordinary application* and the reason was stated above.

The law on the position of creditors was decisively set out by Lord Brightman in *Roberts Petroleum Ltd v Bernard Kenny Ltd* ([1983] 2 AC 192, 208G-H). Mr Moss submitted that the statutory scheme of pari passu distribution among all creditors of the same class at the date of the liquidation was the overriding principle. His Lordship accepted that submission and agreed with it.

If the statutory scheme was to be overridden under section 183(2)(c) then *In re Caribbean Products (Yam Importers) Ltd* ([1966] Ch 331) fell to be considered. Lord Justice Russell said (at p351) he found it difficult to imagine any circumstances in which the court's discretion under that section could be properly exercised.

In re Vron Colliery Co ([1882] ChD.442); *In re Grosvenor Metal Co Ltd* ([1950] Ch 63) were of no guidance and in *In re Suidair International Airways Ltd* ([1951] Ch 165) the facts were wholly unlike any facts alleged on the instant application.

Finally, there was the question of exercise of the jurisdiction under section 168(5) of the 1986 Act. It was clear and well settled law that the court would only intervene to overset a liquidator's decision in rare cases: see *Leon v York-O-Matic* ([1966] 1 WLR 1450).

The Court of Appeal had held in *In re Edennote Ltd* ([1996] 2 BCLC 389, 394) held that in the absence of fraud, bad faith or an act so utterly unreasonable that *no sensible man* would have done it, the court should not intervene.

There was no allegation in the instant case that the liquidators were so acting in applying to the United States Federal Court for the *restraining orders* on the completion of the garnishment in Florida.

The argument that the liquidators' actions were manifestly unreasonable would be wholly unsupportable *if* it were advanced, which it had not been.

On the contrary, it was obvious that the liquidators were acting pursuant to a specific power expressly conferred upon them by Mr Justice Knox, a very careful judge, and were acting in defence of the proper interest of the whole class whom they represented.

Solicitors: Comptons; Clifford Chance.

Court of Appeal

Building to edge of right of way

Groves and Another v Minor

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas

[Judgment October 24]

There was nothing in general to restrict a property owner from building right up to the edge of a *right of* way. *The owner of the* right of way was restricted in his user of the way to the exact width of the right of way.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendants, Peter and Janet Groves, from a decision of Judge Perrett, QC, in Telford County Court on February 2, 1996 giving judgment for the plaintiff, Derek Minor, declaring that the plaintiff was entitled to a right of way over the *whole width of Allscott,* near Wellington, Shropshire, and ordering the defendants to demolish a storm porch erected on a concrete step running along the side of their house.

Mr Anthony Radevsky for the defendants; Mr Peter Goatley for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said Mr Minor owned No 11 Allscott, a two-up, two-down cottage at the end of a lane just under four *metres across. Mr and Mrs* Groves owned and occupied Nos 8, 9 and 10.

Along the wall of the Groves' property was a slightly raised concrete shelf about a metre wide. On that Mr and Mrs Groves had erected a storm porch.

The whole area was originally under sole ownership. Mrs Groves had bought No 9 in 1962 and by a conveyance in 1964 Mr Minor had bought No 11 and acquired the benefit of the services, rights of way, light, water and drainage, and all other rights and easements which had been and were used for the benefit of No 11 in the same manner and to the same extent and with all necessary rights of access and entry as *if there had been no* severance of ownership.

On the basis of that conveyance Mr Minor had claimed a right of way across the whole width of the lane, including the concrete shelf. *The Groves claimed to own* the slab and said the erection of the porch was not an interference with the proper exercise of the right of way.

There could be no doubt at all that the concrete *shelf* formed part of the cottages. They must have passed to the Groves when the cottages were conveyed to them between 1957 and 1964.

It was impossible to construe the conveyances as reserving any right *of vehicular access over the slabs.*

The shelf having been conveyed to the Groves before the conveyance of No 11 to Mr Minor he could not have acquired any rights over the shelf because the vendor could not convey what he did not have. Even had *Mr Minor acquired his* cottage before the original owner sold No 9, he would not have acquired a right over the shelf.

The width of the track between *the edge of the shelf and the wall* opposite Nos 8, 9 and 10 was manifestly enough to accommodate vehicles whose passage could have been contemplated at the time the conveyance was made.

The occasional technical trespasses caused by permitting part of the side of a vehicle to intrude into the airspace over the slabs did not give rise to a right. The dominant owner was limited in his user of the way to the exact width of the way.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Haycocks Clark, Telford; Lanyon Bowdler, Telford.

Objective test for whether tenant is in occupation

Ujima Housing Association v Ansah

Where an assured tenant sub-let *his premises, and the evidence* failed to show that he continued to occupy those premises as his only or principal home, he no longer occupied the premises as such, within the meaning of *section* 1(1) of the Housing Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Cazalet) so held on October 17 allowing the appeal of Ujima Housing Association against the refusal by Judge Hitching in Bow County Court *on December 23,* 1996, of its application for an order for possession of Flat B, 13 Elm Road, Forest Gate, London, let to the defendant, Ernest Ansah, on an assured tenancy within the meaning of section 1(1) of the 1988 Act. An order for possession of the property within 28 days was granted.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said *that he accepted the submission* that the 1988 Act introduced a stricter test for the tenant claiming protection of a statutory assured tenancy, and the Act limited the protection more narrowly.

The evidence showed the defendant was no longer in physical occupation of the flat. The onus was on him to establish he was still occupying it as his principal home. Whether he did so was not to be determined by his subjective inten*tion or motives, but by an objective* assessment of his actions and intention.

The facts, viewed objectively, showed the defendant did not have the intent necessary to preserve his occupation of the flat as his principal residence.

Deficiency of foresight in housing applicant

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte N'Dormadingar

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment October 14]

Where a person who had decided to give up his accommodation believing he had good prospects of finding employment and alter*native accommodation elsewhere,* but had failed to do so, claimed that in making that decision he had been unaware of his prospects and therefore of a relevant fact under 60(3) of the Housing Act 1985, he had to show that at the date he left the accommodation a factual state of affairs existed of which he had been unaware which falsified his predictions before that subsection would apply.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an *additional judge of the Queen's* Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing the application of Bernadette N'Dormadingar for judicial review of the decision of Westminster City Council that she was intentionally homeless within the meaning of section 60 of the 1985 Act.

Mr Martin Russell for the applicant; Mr Clive Jones for the council.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the applicant had given up her rented accommodation in France to seek employment in England. She had made no inquiries as to her employment prospects, other than of friends, nor had she arranged any settled accommodation.

She was pregnant when she arrived in England, but had not considered the prospects of securing child care provision. She had difficulties in finding a job on account of the pregnancy.

After the child was born, she obtained the services of a carer and *found employment. However,* the carer left, forcing the applicant to give up her job.

The friends with whom the applicant had been living grew restive. The applicant applied to the council for accommodation. The council found that she was intentionally homeless under section 60(1) of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship reviewed the recent authorities, which did not all speak with one voice, from which he derived, inter alia, the following principles:

1 The applicant must show that she was unaware of some relevant fact existing at the date she gave up her accommodation.

2 Whether the applicant had made inquiries into the existence of the fact was relevant to her awareness of it.

3 A fact was relevant where, had she been aware of it, the applicant would have taken it into account in deciding to give up her accommodation.

Whether she made inquiries into the existence of the fact threw light on its relevance.

4 A fact *must be sufficiently clear* and definite for its existence to be objectively determined.

5 Lack of, or deficiency in, foresight of the future, did not constitute unawareness of an existing fact. To establish such unawareness it was necessary to show the existence at the relevant date of a factual state of affairs which falsified the applicant's predictions and of which the applicant was unaware.

Applying those principles, his Lordship said that the applicant's case, that she had made her decision to become *homeless* "unaware of the prospects of obtaining employment and child care in England and the prospects of continuing in employment if child care was lost" lacked the required clarity *and exactness.*

In particular, it did not identify of what fact existing at the relevant date she was unaware.

There had been no difference identified between the applicant's actual prospects as they were at the relevant date and her prospects as she had seen them.

She had encountered two foreseeable obstacles to obtaining employment, but in his Lordship's *view that amounted only to events* failing to turn out as the applicant had expected.

Accordingly, section 60(3) was not brought into play and the council were entitled to come their conclusion that she was intentionally homeless.

Solicitors: Moss Beachley & Mullem; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.

When ombudsman has to pay costs

Elliott and Another v Pensions Ombudsman and Others

Where a person successfully appealed against a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman and he had participated in the appeal to assist the court in the absence of the complainants, the ombudsman should be ordered to pay the appellants' costs only to the extent that those had been increased by his participation.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in the Chancery Division on October 31, 1997 when determining the proper order for costs following the successful appeal by two former trustees against a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman dated April *16, 1997.*

HIS LORDSHIP reviewed the relevant authorities and said that it was now clear, following the Court of Appeal decision in *Seifert v Pensions Ombudsman and Others (The Times* October 3, *1997*) that the fact alone that an appeal from the ombudsman was necessary and that it resulted in setting aside the relevant part of his determination was *not* a sufficient ground *for ordering him to pay the costs.*

An appellant, if he wished to have the determination set aside, had no choice but to appeal. In doing so he was bound to incur costs, most of which would be *inevitable whether or not* the ombudsman decided to take any part in the appeal *hearing.*

In those circumstances, the guiding principle must be to assess the extent to which the appellant's costs had been increased by the ombudsman's participation. The ombudsman should pay that increase but otherwise each side should bear its own costs.

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CHANGING TIMES

Scots Law Report November 20 1997 Outer House

No sex bias in judicial pension disparity

Stevenson v Lord Advocate

Before Lord Kirkwood

[Judgment July 24]

The disparity in pension provisions between the rate of pension payable on retirement to a Scots sheriff and an English circuit judge appointed prior to March 31, 1995, did *not* amount to sex discrimination.

Lord Kirkwood so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session dismissing an action for decree of declarator by Walter George Stevenson that he was entitled to the same pension provisions as those to which circuit judges in England and Wales were entitled.

Miss Ann Paton, QC and Mr Archibald MacSporran for the pursuer; Mr Alexander Wylie, QC and Mr Robert McCreadie for the Lord Advocate.

LORD KIRKWOOD said that the pursuer had been appointed a sheriff at Glasgow and had retired in January 1995. Prior to March 31, 1995, a sheriff in Scotland and a circuit judge in England received the same salary but there had been a marked disparity in the respective pension provisions.

While a sheriff had had to serve 20 years before he would receive his full pension, a circuit judge would receive a full pension after 15 years.

When the pursuer retired, he became entitled to a pension amounting to 12/40ths of his annual salary. A circuit judge who had retired at the same time would have been entitled to a pension amounting to 17/40ths of his last annual salary. That disparity had been brought to an end by the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993 for all sheriffs and circuit *judges appointed after March 31,* 1995.

The pursuer averred that holders of the office of sheriff and holders of the office of circuit judge performed equal work within the meaning of article 119 of the EC Treaty. He further averred that a number of circuit judges at any given time since 1977 had been female and that the majority of sheriffs had been male.

He sought to draw a comparison between himself, as a male sheriff, and a female circuit judge and averred that he received a less favourable pension entitlement than the latter. In those circumstances he claimed, under reference to article 119 that he had been unfairly sexually discriminated against.

It was accepted by both parties that from January 1983 until January 1995, while there *had* been male and female sheriffs and male and female circuit judges, sheriffs and circuit judges had been predominantly male.

In his Lordship's opinion, in the particular circumstances, that comparison did not make it possible to draw an inference that the discrimination was based on sex.

All sheriffs appointed before March 1993, whether male or female, were entitled, on the assumption *that they had served* for the same period, to a higher pension.

Accordingly, while it was averred that in the case of appointments made prior to March 31, 1993 sheriffs had been discriminated against compared to circuit judges in relation to the level of pensions to which they were entitled, it was conceded that that discrimination applied equally to male and female sheriffs.

Further, all circuit judges, whether male or female, received a higher level of pension than a sheriff who *had* been appointed prior to March 31, 1991.

It appeared from the pursuer's own averments that, so far as pension levels were concerned, the discrimination against sheriffs and in favour of circuit judges applied equally without regard to sex. The pursuer *had not* relevantly averred *that* discrimination in relation to pension provisions was based on sex and the action fell to be dismissed.

His Lordship went on to consider whether a sheriff could properly be regarded as a "worker". It was agreed that article 119 only applied to workers.

It was agreed that a sheriff was the holder of an office, but the parties were in dispute as to whether or not a sheriff, in order to come within the definition of "worker", had also to be in employment.

Article 119 defined "pay" as meaning the consideration which the worker received in respect of his employment from his employer: see *Lawrie-Blum v Land Baden-Wurttemberg* (Case 66/85) ([1986] ECR 2121). The term "worker" in article 48 had to be interpreted broadly.

Directive No 75/117/EEC (OJ 1975 L45/19) contained repeated references to "employer", "employees" and "employment" and the preamble referred to "facilitating the practical application of the principle of equality in such a way that all employees in the Community can be protected in these matters".

His Lordship would have held that the pursuer could not be a "worker unless he established he was in an employment relation*ship as that term was defin*ed in paragraph 17 of the judgment in *Lawrie-Blum.*

It was common ground that a sheriff was the holder of an office. However, it did not necessarily follow that the holder of an office *could not also* be employed under a contract of service and had his case been otherwise relevant, the pursuer would have been entitled to an opportunity to prove that he was a "worker".

The pursuer had invited his Lordship to refer to the European Court of Justice the question whether a sheriff was a "worker" within the meaning of article 119 and the 1975 Directive. His Lordship was not prepared to do so.

First, *while* article *177* provided that the European Court of Justice had jurisdiction to give preliminary rulings concerning the interpretation of the Treaty, for the reasons already given, his Lordship felt able to give judg*ment* without the need to obtain a ruling.

Second, even if his Lordship had felt it necessary to seek a ruling on that issue, he would not have thought it appropriate to seek such a ruling until a proof had taken place and *all the* relevant facts had been ascertained.

Law agents: John G. Gray & Co, SSC; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Defenders to prove compliance

Bilton v Fastnet Highlands Ltd

Before Lord Nimmo Smith

[Judgment July 22]

Where an employee sought damages *for alleged breach of regula*tion 7 of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (SI 1988 No 1657) it was unnecessary for him to establish what the defenders ought to have done to comply with that duty and their failure to do so.

It was for the defenders to prove what steps were carried out in order to comply with their statutory duty so far as was reasonably practicable.

Lord Nimmo Smith so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session when allowing Miss Karen Bilton allowing a proof before answer in an action of reparation brought by her against Fastnet Highlands Ltd.

Mr Paul Davies for the pursuer; Miss Lesley Shand for the defender.

LORD NIMMO SMITH said that the pursuer averred that she *had been employed by the defend*ers as a fish processor at a prawn factory. She was required to carry out the grading, sorting and packing of prawns which had been dipped in a solution containing sodium metabisulphite.

As a result of exposure to respirable prawn protein, she developed occupational asthma, which condition was further exacerbated by exposure to sodium metabisulphite and sulphur dioxide which was produced from the solution in water of sodium metabisulphite.

She went on to aver that sodium metabisulphite, sulphur dioxide and respirable prawn protein were substances which were hazardous to health in terms of the 1988 Regulations and that the defenders were in breach of regulation 7.

The defenders argued that the pursuer had not *simply* to aver facts and circumstances which allegedly constituted a breach of that regulation, but had also to aver what measures the defenders should have taken, but failed to take, to comply with it.

However, in *Nimmo v Alexander Cowan & Sons Ltd* (1967 SC (HL) 79), the House of Lords had held that it was sufficient for the purposes of a case under section 29(1) of the Factories Act 1961 for the pursuer to aver that a *place* at which he had to work was not made and kept safe for him.

It was not necessary for him to aver whether or not it was reasonably practicable to make and keep it safe. It was for the defenders to aver, and the onus was on them to prove that they had made the working place safe so far as was reasonably practicable.

In his Lordship's opinion, the pursuer in the present case did not require to do more than aver, as she had done, that she had suffered injury as the result of exposure to certain substances in the course of *her* employment, that those were substances falling within the ambit of the 1988 Regulations, and that her injury had been caused by the defenders' breach of the duties incumbent upon them in terms of the regulations.

Regulation 7(1) was comparable with the provisions of section 29(1) in that it imposed an absolute duty, subject to the defence of reasonable practicability.

It was *not* for the pursuer to aver what the defenders should have done to comply with the requirements of the regulations, and that they did not do that, but for the defenders to aver what they had done and that that had been sufficient to comply with the regulations.

Law agents: Thompsons; Ledingham Chalmers.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 20 1997

Court of Appeal

Police cannot rely on suicide in defence

Reeves v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment November 10]

Where police authorities were found in breach of a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent the suicide of a sane prisoner in their custody they could not, by invoking the defences of novus *actus interveniens* and *volenti non fit injuria*, rely on the deceased's voluntary act to defeat a claim for damages made on behalf of his estate.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Morritt dissenting, when allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Sheila Reeves, as joint administratrix of the estate of Martin Lynch, from Judge Sir Frank White, who, sitting at the Central London County Court, had dismissed her claim for damages against the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

The judge had found that:

(1) The defendant's police officers owed a particular duty to the deceased, because they knew he was a suicide risk, to take reasonable care to prevent him taking his life while he was in their custody.

(2) The officers had been negligent in failing to close the flap on the door of the cell where he was held, which it might reasonably have been seen would give him the opportunity to strangle himself.

(3) Apart from whether the deceased's act was novus actus interveniens, there was a causative link between that negligent act and his death, when he took that opportunity.

In dismissing the plaintiff's claim, the judge had upheld the defences of novus actus interveniens, volenti non fit injuria and contributory negligence, and would have upheld a further defence based on the maxim ex *turpi causa or public policy had it* been necessary to do so.

Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Simon Freeland for the commissioner.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON rejected the defendant's submission that the defence of volenti was available to bar the plaintiff's claim. Referring to *Kirkham v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester* ([1990] QB 283), his Lordship said that that case, which bore the factual difference that the deceased there had been of unsound mind, was the subject of close analysis in argument.

There the defence of volenti had been rejected: Lord Justice Lloyd holding that the deceased had not been truly volens, but that had he been so, *it was difficult to see why* the claim should not be met with a plea of volenti.

Lord Justice Farquharson, agreeing on the question of volens, had rejected the defence of volenti on a second ground: that it was inappropriate where the act of the deceased relied on was the very act which the duty cast on the defendant required him to prevent.

Although that second ground could not be spelled out as the ratio of the *Kirkham* case it was correct and should be followed.

His Lordship's reasons for rejecting the defence as inapt here were:

1 In reliance on Lord Justice Farquharson's second ground, that if the police's obligation was to guard against suicide, that is, to protect Mr Lynch from a deliberate act against his own life, they could not or should not be exempted *from liability because that* deliberate act occurred.

Were it to be the law that the act of suicide by a sane person exempted the police from liability one would expect that to be achieved by holding there to be no duty of care in the case of a sane man.

But that was not what the judge held nor the defendant submitted. It was the existence of that duty, which contemplated the prevention by the defendant of the very act that was said to constitute the voluntary or intervening act of the prisoner which set the present case apart from those cases, such as *Cutler v United Dairies* ([1933] 2 KB 2970, where the plaintiff by his own act put himself within the zone of peril which caused the accident.

2 If the defence of volenti were available no action would ever lie for a suicide in respect of which a duty of care had been established. The outcome of the *Kirkham* case, if it were held to uphold the availability of the defence where the deceased was sane, depended on distinguishing between those of sound and unsound mind. But the law in imposing the duty made no such distinction, as the judge's findings demonstrated.

3 Any such distinction was inconsistent with recognition of the existence of a duty of care, and in any event would in practical terms be difficult or impossible to make.

4 To introduce a criterion of soundness of mind would cause difficulties in terms of evidence.

5 There was a considerable element of artificiality in applying the traditional statements setting out the elements of the defence in present circumstances: a defendant could assert the defence if he could show that the plaintiff assumed or consented to his being exposed to the risk the existence of which constituted the defendant's negligent act.

The risk here was that Mr Lynch might kill himself; but was it realistic to say that by deliberately killing himself he assumed a risk that he might do so? And how did he assume that risk? The only evidence was his actual suicide.

His Lordship rejected, as incorrect in law, the assertion of *novus actus interveniens*, that the death was caused by the deceased's own act, not by acts or omissions of the officers so as to break the necessary link between their negligence and any damage suffered by him or his representatives.

In the present context the suicide was not an intervening cause at all, or was not a new act because foresight of its possible occurrence *was by far the most important part* of the reason for placing the defendant under its duty in the first place.

Once that duty was admitted the approach indicated by Lord Justice Oliver in *P. Perl (Exporters) Ltd v Camden London Borough Council* ([1984] QB 342, 353C in the case of duties to protect the plaintiff from third parties necessarily applied.

On the question of contributory fault his Lordship, having referred to sections 1 and 4 of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945, said that it was artificial to contend that a defence to liability could rest on the performance by the deceased of the very act that the defendant was under a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent. The defence provided by the Act simply did not fit a case such as the present.

Mr Lynch did what he might have reasonably been expected to do, given the opportunity provided to him by the defendant. It was *precisely because of that expectation* that the defendant had the duty towards him found by the judge and unchallenged on the appeal. A plea of contributory negligence was inappropriate here and that defence had to fail.

His Lordship also rejected the submission that the defence of ex turpi causa was available. That defence failed on a logical ground similar to that which was fatal to the defence of volenti.

The case was quite different from the usual application of ex turpi causa: here the alleged turpitudinous act was the very thing that the defendant had a duty to try to prevent imposed by a law of negligence which itself appealed to public conscience or at least public notions of reasonableness.

Referring to the guide to the defence given by Lord Justice Kerr in *Euro-Diam Ltd v Bathurst* ([1990] 1 QB 1, 35C) his Lordship said that to grant relief here did not assist or encourage either the deceased or others in his situation to continue in their disapproved conduct; and even less was that the effect of the grant of relief to his representatives.

Nor even were others in the deceased's position encouraged to act on their representatives' behalf: all that the latter recovered was their actual loss, and no element of profit or windfall benefit.

It followed that none of the defences asserted by the defendant was made out and the appeal *should therefore be allowed.*

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT, dissenting, accepted the defendant's *assertion of novus actus* interveniens: that the voluntary, deliberate and informed act of a plaintiff, or one whom the plaintiff represented, intended to exploit the situation created by the defendant albeit in breach of duty precluded a causative link between the breach of duty and the consequences of the plaintiff's action.

If the law were otherwise then those who failed to take reasonable care would become insurers for the deliberate actions of those to whom they owed their duty of care. That would extend the law of negligence far beyond its proper scope.

He would dismiss the appeal on that ground but would also have considered that the defence of volenti was available to bar the plaintiff's claim.

On the question of contributory negligence his Lordship considered that, if, contrary to his view, the deceased's act had not broken the chain of causation, the damage was sustained partly by the fault, as defined by section 4 of the 1945 *Act, of the deceased and partly by* that of the police.

In such circumstances, the Act applied and the court was entitled to reduce the recoverable damages to such extent as it thought just and equitable. On the facts found here the judge had *not* erred in his apportionment of 100 per cent contributory negligence by the deceased.

On the issue of public policy, his Lordship would not think it appropriate to brand as contrary to public policy or offensive to the public conscience an act which Parliament had so recently legalised.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, agreeing with Lord Justice Buxton that the appeal should be allowed, concluded that the defences of novus actus interveniens, volenti and that based on the maxim ex turpi causa failed.

On the question of contributory negligence, he agreed with the judge that the definition of "fault" in section 4 was wide enough to cover the deceased's act here and to entitle the court, if it thought it right, to reduce the damages recoverable to reflect his own responsibility for the loss.

Here both the defendant and the deceased bore a substantial *responsibility for the fatal outcome.* It would not seem appropriate to attribute all the responsibility to one party or the other.

Had his Lordship been sitting alone he would have concluded *that the responsibility should be* shared equally between the deceased and the defendant and that the damages recoverable by the plaintiff should be reduced by 50 per cent.

However, while adhering to his *view on the applicability of the 1945* Act, to achieve consensus as to the outcome of the appeal, he would conclude that the plaintiff's claim should not be reduced to reflect any fault on the deceased's part and would allow the appeal.

Solicitors: Christian Fisher; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Sentencing for indecent assault of children

Attorney-General's Reference No 34 of 1997
Regina v Reed

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Butterfield

[Judgment October 16]

Serious acts of indecent assault on young children *rightly* aroused strong public condemnation and parents were entitled to look to the courts for effective protection. In such cases an immediate custodial sentence was called for both to punish the offender and to deter others.

The Court of Appeal so stated when (i) granting leave to the Attorney-General to refer to the court as unduly lenient, under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, concurrent sentences of 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years imposed by Judge Balston at Maidstone Crown Court on Peter Reed who had *pleaded* guilty to six counts of indecent assault on three boys aged between six and 11; and (ii) substituting a sentence of 15 months immediate imprisonment.

The offender had committed the assaults by touching the genitalia *of the boys under their clothing in* incidents spanning a period of 2½ years while they were in his charge as friends of his own children.

Mr Nicholas Hilliard, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the Attorney-General; *Miss Adele Williams for the* offender.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE *said* that as aggravating features of the offences the Attorney-General had relied on the youth of the boys, the form the assaults had taken, their repeated *nature* over a substantial period and that the offender had been in a position of trust in relation to the victims.

His Lordship said that it was not a case where the element of trust was as strong as in some cases, nevertheless parents had allowed their children to visit the offender's house and to go out with him on the assumption that he would treat them properly.

Miss Williams had submitted that there were exceptional circumstances in the case: that *the* offender had himself suffered abuse as a child; that his marriage was undergoing difficulties at the time of the offences; that he had voluntarily sought psychiatric treatment and was responding to it.

However, those factors were by no means exceptional and were frequently and regularly encountered in cases of the present kind. There were no exceptional circumstances which justified *suspending* the sentence. Even if there had been the case was not one in which the suspension could be justified.

The court accepted that the sentence might well be seen as defensible if viewed from the *offender's* angle *alone* but it was obliged to bear in mind that the present type of offence had a public as well as a private dimension.

The public rightly and *strongly* condemned such offences and parents of young children were entitled to look to the courts for effective protection. That meant that sentences imposed on those who had transgressed as seriously as the present offender *had to* involve a strong punitive element which did not exist where no *immediate* imprisonment was imposed and he was free to continue his ordinary life.

It was necessary to mark the public condemnation of such offences by a sentence of immediate imprisonment both to punish the offender and to deter others.

If there had been at trial a contest in which liability had been denied and the offender had been convicted the appropriate *sentence* would have been in the range of 30 months to three years. On a plea of guilty, the court would expect a sentence of 18 months to two years immediate imprisonment to have been imposed.

Bearing in mind and making allowance for the fact that the present case came before the court on an Attorney-General's reference which subjected the offender to the undoubted trauma of facing the sentencing process for a second *time, the appropriate sentence* would be one of 15 months immediate imprisonment.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Delay relevant in ordering return of abducted child

In re S (a Minor) (Child abduction: Delay)

Before Mr Justice Wall

[Judgment October 16]

When exercising its discretion whether or not to order the summary return of a child to the country of habitual residence, the court was entitled to take into account the delay between the wrongful removal and the start of proceedings under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction 1980.

Mr Justice Wall so *held* in the Family Division in a reserved judgment handed down in chambers but reported with leave on the basis that neither the parties nor the whereabouts of the child should be identified, when refusing to order the summary return of a child under articles 3 and 12 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction 1980, set out in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985.

Mr Henry Setright for the father; Mr Michael Hosford-Tanner for the mother.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that the parents, both Italian nationals, had married in England before settling in Germany where S was born in 1986. In May 1996, without the father's knowledge, her mother *brought her to England intending* to settle here permanently.

They returned to Germany on a three-day visit in September 1996. Meanwhile the father had been awarded custody by the German courts in October 1996 and in June *1997 he* started proceedings under article 3 of the 1980 Convention for her summary return.

The mother argued that, as a period of more than 12 months had elapsed since the admittedly wrongful removal in May, the court had a discretion under article 12 of the 1980 Convention to refuse to order summary return on the *ground that the child was settled in* the new environment, the brief visit to Germany not amounting to a return which effectively brought to an end her status as a child who had been wrongfully removed.

His Lordship rejected the submission that wrongful removal was a continuing state of affairs governing a child's status irrespective of what happened to her subsequently: see *In re H (Minors) (Abduction: Custody rights); In re S (Minors) (Abduction: Custody rights)* ([1991] 2 AC 476).

The second removal in September fulfilled all the article 3 criteria: each was a separate wrongful removal and accordingly the article 12 exception giving the court discretion did not apply.

However, under article 13 the court had a discretion to refuse to order summary return if the child objected and was of sufficient age and maturity for her views to be considered.

On the facts, S satisfied the tests laid down in *In re S (a Minor) (Abduction: Custody rights)* ([1993] Fam 242) and had clear and rational reasons for not wishing to return to Germany.

The door to discretion having thus been opened, the court could also take into account the father's unexplained delay in starting proceedings, a lapse which ran contrary to the whole philosophy *of the Hague Convention which* was to ensure the swift return of children who had been wrongfully removed from their country of habitual residence.

Parental preference precedes school catchment area

Regina v Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte Clark and Others

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment October 9]

Although the inclusion of catchment areas in allocating places in secondary schools was not in itself unlawful, it was unlawful to fail to ascertain parental preferences at the beginning of the process of placing a child, before addressing the question of which catchment area the child might fall into.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the applications of Kira Clark, Gregory Dakin, Andrew Hickman, Jordan Inckey, Simon Jubb, Kyle Laheji, Kerry Manderson, Faye Pritchard, Amy Smith and Rachel Wright for judicial review by way, inter alia, of certiori to quash the decisions of *Rotherham Metropolitan Borough* Council and their appeal committee to refuse to admit the applicants' children to Old Hall School, Rotherham.

The local education authority had a policy of allocating places in its secondary schools through the use of catchment areas. Prospective parents who lived within the catchment area for a particular school were told by letter that their child would be allocated a place automatically.

Parents who wished to send their children to a particular school despite their living outside its catchment area were allocated any remaining places by such criteria as distance from the school and whether there was a sibling already there. The applicants were all parents who lived outside the catchment area for Old Hall School and had been refused places there for their children.

Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Marc Beaumont for the applicants; Mr Philip Engelman for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said a policy based upon catchment areas or siblings at the school was not a policy that was of itself unlawful. To have a policy which indicated what were to be the priorities was not unlawful.

Mr Goudie submitted that those in the catchment area did not choose any preference. They were told that if they did nothing their child was allocated to the catchment area school. The result was that many places available at the relevant school were filled up before those expressing a true preference for the school could have their opinion considered.

His Lordship said that other local education authorities applied catchment areas as a basis for allocation to secondary schools. It was obviously convenient and might provide an element of certainty for parents but the whole essence of parental preference was that there should be such a preference expressed: there should *be something positive done.*

In other authorities where there was a similar policy to Rotherham the parent was instructed positively to go to the headmaster of the school and indicate that he wanted his child to go to that school.

Parents were able to see the school and form a view as to whether it was the correct school for their child. It did not follow that a parent would automatically choose a school higher in the league table. In order properly to follow the dictates of Parliament it was essential that a local education authority, before it allocated places, knew what the preferences were even from those within the catchment areas.

Accordingly Mr Goudie was correct in his submission that Rotherham's policy was flawed in *that it did not require preferences* to be stated at the outset.

Solicitors: Hickmotts, Rotherham; Mr Tim Mumford, Rotherham.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Credit note can be used as VAT invoice

Finanzamt Osnabrück-Land v *Langhorst*

Case C-141/96

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann, H. Ragnemalm and M. Wathelet

Advocate General P. Leger

(Opinion May 27)

[Judgment September 17]

A credit note issued by the recipient of goods or services could be a "document serving as an invoice" for value-added tax purposes.

A supplier who had not contested the mention, in a credit note serving as an invoice, of an amount of VAT greater than that actually due, was liable to pay the amount shown.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof (Federal Finance Court), Germany, on questions on the interpretation of articles 21(1)(c) and 22(3)(c) of Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to *turnover taxes: common system of* VAT: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145 p1).

By a German law, a credit note issued by a trader in settlement of a taxable supply made to him was to be recognised as an invoice, provided certain conditions were *satisfied*. In *his VAT declaration* for the year at issue, Mr Langhorst, a farmer, elected, pursuant to a German law, to be taxed at the rate of 7 rather than 13 per cent. Unaware of that fact, livestock dealers whom Mr *Langhorst had supplied with pigs* issued him with credit notes which mentioned separately VAT calculated at 13 per cent. Mr Langhorst did not at first contest the amount of VAT in the credit notes, but later brought proceedings claiming a reduction in the amount of VAT.

Article 21 of the Sixth Directive provides: "The following shall be liable to pay value added tax: (1) under the internal system: ... (c) any person who mentions the value added tax on an invoice or other document serving as invoice..."

Article 22 provides: "(3)(a) Every *taxable person shall issue* an invoice, or other document serving as invoice in respect of all goods and services supplied by him to another taxable person ... (b) The invoice shall state clearly the price exclusive of tax and the corresponding tax at each rate as well as any exemptions. (c) The member states shall determine the criteria for considering whether a document serves as an invoice."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The first question was whether article 22(3)(c) authorised member states to regard a credit note issued by the recipient of goods or *services as a "document serving as an invoice".*

Article 22(3)(a) referred to the normal situation where an invoice or document serving as an invoice was issued by the supplier of goods or services.

However, since the purpose of that provision was to ensure correct collection of the tax and to avoid fraud, there was no reason *why the document should not be* drawn up by the recipient, provided that it included the information prescribed for an invoice and the supplier had been given the opportunity to ask, if necessary, for the information to be corrected.

In such a case, since he had that power of control, the supplier could be regarded as the author of the document, the drawing up of *which he had, as it were, delegated* to his customer.

The credit note thus fulfilled the function of documenting the supplier's rights and obligations with respect to VAT, since it contained the same information as a traditional invoice and the supplier was free to approve its content.

As the German and United Kingdom Governments had rightly observed, a credit note issued by the recipient was in many cases the best means of accounting for the supplies effected, in that it was only the recipient of the goods or services *who was in a position to check that* they complied with the terms of the contract.

In those circumstances, it could not be deduced from the fact that article 22(3)(a) provided only for the issuing by the supplier of an *invoice or document serving as such*, that it was not possible for the member states to regard a document as serving as an invoice solely because it had been issued by the recipient.

The second question concerned article 21(1)(c) of the directive.

Where, in circumstances such as the present, a credit note served as an invoice, the supplier had to be regarded as the person who had in fact mentioned VAT in the credit note, within article 21(1)(c), and he was consequently liable to pay the amount stated.

Were it otherwise, part of the VAT appearing in the document *serving as invoice would not have* to be paid by the supplier, even though that VAT might have been deducted in full by the recipient, thus giving scope for possible fraud or collusion, contrary to the proper functioning of the common system of VAT established by the directive and its objective of ensuring that VAT was levied and collected under the supervision of *the tax authorities.*

On those grounds the Court ruled:

1 Article 22(3)(c) of the Sixth Directive authorised member states to regard a credit note issued *by the recipient of goods or* services as a "document serving as an invoice", where it included the information prescribed for invoices by that directive, it was drawn up with the agreement of the taxable person who supplied *the goods or services, and the latter* was able to contest the amount of VAT mentioned.

2 A taxable person who had not contested the mention, in a credit note serving as an invoice, of an amount of VAT greater than that owed by reason of taxable transactions could be regarded as the person who had mentioned that amount, and was consequently liable to pay the amount shown, within the meaning of article 21(1)(c).

Employer's state responsible

Danmarks Aktive Handelsrejsende, acting on behalf of Mosbæk v Lonmodtagernes Garantifond

Case C-117/96

Where an employee residing in one member state worked there for an employer established in another member state, it was the guarantee institution of the employer's state that was normally *responsible for guaranteeing* payment of the employee's outstanding claims against the employer in the event of the employer's insolvency.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on *September 17* on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Ostre Landsret (Eastern Regional Court), Denmark for a preliminary ruling concerning article 3 of Council Directive 80/987/EEC of October 20, 1980 on the approximation of *the laws of the member states* relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer (OJ 1980 L283 p23).

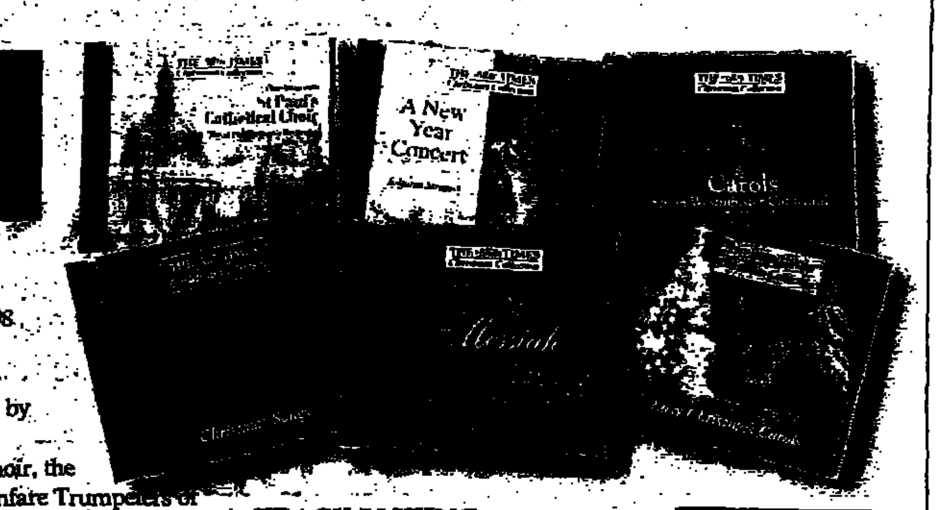
In the proceedings, Mrs Mosbæk, who lived in Denmark and had worked there for Colorgen Ltd, an English company neither established nor registered in Denmark which was declared insolvent, claimed a sum representing unpaid salary, commissions and expenses from the Danish guarantee institution.

In its judgment, the Court said that article 3 required member *states to take the measures necessary* to ensure that guarantee institutions guaranteed payment of employees' outstanding claims resulting from contracts of employment or employment relationships, on the insolvency of the employer.

The Danish institution refused to settle Mrs Mosbæk's claim on the ground that responsibility lay *with the institution of the employer's state*, namely the National Insurance Fund.

Although the directive contained no provision expressly stating which institution had responsibility in circumstances such as those of the case, it was clear from, inter alia, the scheme of the directive that it must be the institution of the state in which, in accordance with article 2(1), either it had been decided to open proceedings for the collective satisfaction of creditors' claims, or it had been established that the employer's undertaking or business had been definitively closed down.

In practice the opening of proceedings to satisfy creditors' claims collectively, which made it possible for salary claims to be *taken into consideration*, was most often requested in the state in which the employer was established.



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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Bargains of the week: Yomping between hostels in the Dales, something for singles in Devon, back to nature in Nepal

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices:*

BRITAIN

STEP back in time is the theme of short breaks at Cheltenham's Hallery House Hotel. Free tickets to museums with military, motoring and musical memorabilia are included in the £190 price, together with dinner, bed and breakfast for two nights. Details: 01242 578450.

■ ESCAPING to the Yorkshire Moors and Dales at budget prices has been made easier with the publication of a Youth Hostels Association guide to walks between its 25 properties in the two national parks, where an overnight stay for members costs from £8.50 (adult) and £5.70 (under-18). Details: 01727 845017.

■ THE Lake District may be windy and misty this month, but it is at least empty and temptingly priced: a two-night break at Ennerdale Country House Hotel, a listed building near Cleator, costs £89 with half-board. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ SINGLES can get in the festive spirit by joining two-night breaks with dinner and dancing each evening on the first two weekends of December in Bideford, North Devon, with Solo's Holidays. Price: £109. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■ A ROARING Twenties dinner dance on Boxing Day will be the culmination of a three-day Yorkshire Christmas break at the Green Man in Malton's market place. Price: £195, including all meals. Details: 01723 374374.

■ ROASTING turkey in the galley? You could be with Hoseasons Holidays this Christmas, because some boats have full-sized ovens as well as heating, colour TV sets and, in one case, a four-poster bed. Prices for a festive week in the Norfolk Broads cost from £341 for a boat sleeping two, to £608 for a seven-berther. Details: 01502 501010.

EUROPE

FLY AWAY to sunnier climes: Lanzarote is available at good prices with Sunset Holidays. Fly from Gatwick next Thursday and a fortnight's self-catering will cost £249, a £96 saving. Details: 01204 701000.

■ ISTANBUL could be just the place to find exotic Christmas presents and Crusader Travel is offering a three-night "shopping special" to the city, flying from Manchester next Thursday. The £299 price includes B&B in a three-star hotel and a sightseeing tour. Packages from Gatwick next Tuesday also available. Details: 0181-744 0474.

■ ROOM SERVICE is celebrating its fifth birthday by offering its lowest hotel prices yet in leading Italian cities, with a double room in Florence available from £36 a night, less for longer stays. Flights can also be arranged. Details: 0171-636 6888.

■ DOES Christmas in the Spanish Pyrenees sound appealing? Lakes & Mountains Holidays is offering a five-night break, with half-board, leaving Gatwick on December 23, for £449. Included is Christmas Eve lunch in France, Boxing Day in Andorra and two nights south of the mountains in Barcelona. Details: 01329 844405.

■ THREE NIGHTS for the price of two are available at some Best Western hotels in Ireland. Prices start from £89 a person, including B&B and return Irish Ferries crossing for a car and four passengers. Details: 0990 170000.

■ THE SKI SLOPES of Vosges may be less dramatic than those of the Alps but they are closer and cheaper. A four-day break at the Hotel des Vallées in La Bresse costs £150, including half-board, lift passes and ski hire. Channel crossings are extra. Details: 00333 2982 4993.

■ VAL D'ISERE, one of the top French ski resorts, is available at less than crippling prices from Leisure Direction Ski. A studio for four for a week in January costs £338 and similar accommodation at Le Centre, including a heated pool, costs £420. Both prices cover the Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 0181-324 3030.

The people, wild animals and rare birds of Nepal's Kosi Tappu reserve are featured on a ten-day tour with Naturetrek, departing London on December 19. The £990 price includes flights, meals, tents and excursions by raft and cross-country vehicle. Details: 01962 733051.

[illegible]

SRI LANKA seems calmer after its recent troubles and tour operators, eager to encourage holidaymakers to return, are offering excellent deals. A fortnight's Sunworld hotel holiday with half-board is available from Co-op Travelcare for £329. Fly from Gatwick next Tuesday. Details: 0541 500388.

■ HONG KONG has been in the news all year. If you are a student or under 26 and want a taste of what post-colonial life is like there, now is the time: Campus Travel is offering return flights from Heathrow for £235 plus tax. You must leave by November 29; return tickets are valid for a year. Details: 0171-730 8111.

■ GOA without the hippies is on offer for £359 for a fortnight from Unijet. The deal involves a flight from Gatwick on November 29 and B&B at a resort half a mile from the beach. Details: 0990 336336.

■ AN INDIAN TOUR departing from Heathrow on December 4 and including a wildlife reserve and bird sanctuary, as well as the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, is still available from Travelbag Adventures. Price: £795, including return flights and ten nights' B&B. Details: 01420 541007.

■ CRUISES for next year are available at 25 per cent savings if you book before the end of the month with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. The best discounts are on *Black Watch* cruises to the Caribbean. Details: 01473 292222.

■ St KITTS in the Caribbean is on offer at £599 for a fortnight in a three-star hotel by the beach, including Christmas Day, but returning on Boxing Day, from Tropical Places. Details: 01342 825123.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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SQUASH

Potters Bar rediscover Wright way to win

By Colin McQuillan

SUE WRIGHT, the British champion, displayed her renowned fighting spirit in domestic competition this week, dragging her Potters Bar male colleagues to a narrow victory in the SRA National Squash League.

With the men evenly split at home against Tamworth Street Motors, Duffield, Wright, 27, wrested the fifth string deciding point 7-9, 10-8, 10-8, 9-8 *from* Natalie Grainger.

Mitsubishi Electric Potters Bar, champions for the past two years, are famous battlers. In this match, their points in the men's rubbers came from a 9-10, 9-5, 9-6, 6-9, 9-5 win by *Jamie Davis* over Paul Hargrave and a 2-9, 9-6, 9-7, 0-9, 9-3, win by Paul Carter over Mark Allen. However, John Ransome lost at first string to Hadrian Stiff 9-10 in the fourth game, and Dean Watson lost comprehensively to John Russell at fourth string.

It was Wright's steely determination that kept Potters Bar at the head of the Group A table. She lost the first game to the talented stroke play of Grainger and was game all *down in each of the* next three games, fighting back from 1-8 down in the fourth to win both the rubber and the match after 56 minutes.

"It was a fantastic fighting performance," Brian Hargrave, the Duffield team manager, said. "Natalie played extremely well in conditions that must have been quite foreign to her. I thought she was going to clinch the match for us but she just couldn't put Sue away."

"*I love* team play for my club, my league side or my country," Wright said. "You find extra depths in yourself when you have to win for the others."

SRA National League results: Group A: Mitsubishi Electric Potters Bar 3 Tamworth *Street Motors Duffield* 2 (J Ransome lost to H Stiff 5-9, 9-6, 0-9, 9-10; J Davis bt P Hargrave 9-10, 9-5, 9-6, 6-9, 9-5; P Carter bt M Allen 2-9, 9-6, 9-7, 0-9, 9-3; D Watson lost to J Russell 1-9, 4-9, 6-9; S Wright bt N Granger 7-9, 10-8, 10-8, 9-8). Ilkley 2 Irwin Mitchell Hallamshire 3 (A Stevenson bt N Matthew 7-9, 9-7, 2-9, 9-6, 9-2; B Rickaby bt P Tranfield 5-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-6; D Pearson lost to N Guiray 4-9, 5-9, 2-9; S Pickering lost to N Wall 9-3, 8-10, 2-9, 0-9; K Allison lost to J Tranfield 4-9, 1-9, 0-9).

Group B: Broxbourne 3 Hartridge Chichester 2 (J Wellings bt N Dugan 9-4, 9-1, 9-0; A Abou Taleb lost to P Genever 7-9, 4-9, 5-9; C Tomlinson bt L Drew 9-3, 6-9, 9-5, 10-9; P Gunter beat M Harris 9-3, 9-2, 9-6; K Buckley lost to L Charman 0-9, 0-9, 3-9).

Thrilling finish in prospect as team contest nears conclusion

La Manga presents ultimate test

From Mel Webb in La Manga

THE British Isles may be gripped by the clammy embrace of early winter, but in this corner of southeast Spain spring is in the air. Or, at least, it feels like spring to the visitor from farther up the European map. It is pleasantly warm in the province of *Murcia but, whatever* the weather, the temperature for 56 amateur golfers will become as hot as the fires of Hades in the next two days.

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge has arrived at its spiritual home, the La Manga Club, for the fifth national final of the biggest corporate golf event in the British Isles. More than 100,000 players have competed in the Challenge this year; it has taken nine months of intense competition and more than 1,000 company golf days for that huge figure to be *distilled down to this elite 56.*

Players of just about every degree of proficiency are here. There are 24-handicappers, a host of single-figure men and two who play off a tigerish two. There will be players who will exceed their modest ability on the 36 holes that face them in the coming 48 hours, others, perhaps more talented, who will feel they have not done themselves justice. What they will have in common is the knowledge that, in the *amateur game,* it does not come much better than this.

As the 14 teams went about their business in their practice round yesterday, there were many factors for them to consider not least of which is that, for the first time in the competition this year, they will be playing as a four-man team. On the original company golf day, they played as individuals and in the regional finals in October they were paired off into two two-balls. *Now they have to operate as a* quartet; now they have to evolve a tactical plan. Whoever does that best will take some beating.

Danny Roe, 16, of the Drakes Group, plays out of a bunker at the 8th green during practice at La Manga yesterday

Searching for likely winners is a fruitless task. Nobody can tell at this stage who will respond to the pressure best, who will most rapidly acclimatise to the basilisk eye of the television cameras — for the fourth year the final will be shown in a one-hour programme on Sky Sports early in December.

The South course at La *Manga is looking and playing* better than it has ever done. It has always been the jewel in La Manga's sporting crown, but this year its star is sparkling ever more brightly.

Like all good golf courses, the beautiful South rewards good golf, but is merciless on the erratic. If your ball gets enmeshed in the wiry Bermuda rough here, you have to take your punishment. The lesson is clear — don't get smart, get out.

The competition that gets under way this morning will be a 36-hole event played off three quarters of handicap under the rules of Stableford, the scoring system that awards points for bogeys, pars, birdies and eagles. As in the regional finals, the scores of the best two players on each hole will count.

The change in handicap allowance this year from seven eighths to three quarters meant that the regional finals of the competition were more closely contested affairs than *they had ever been. It is likely* to be the same here. The final in 1996 produced its tightest finish, when it went for the first time to a play-off — four teams were involved before victory was claimed by a single point. It could easily happen again this year.

The most poignant story to emerge from the aftermath of the breathless 30 minutes of the play-off was that of one man who felt he had let his team down. Inconsolable, he *has not played a competitive* round since. He might not be a typical case, but that is what this most unique of golf tournaments can do to people.

TEE TIMES AND HANDICAPS

0830:	McClure Watters	(R McClure 6, D Watters 12, A Kirk 5, A Andrews 18).
0840:	Opus 4 Integrated	(T Alldridge 19, J McMahon 18, W Slade 10, P Tubb 24).
0850:	Drakes Group	(P Simcox 16, P Gyoury 8, P Morris 15, D Roe 8).
0900:	Archer Leisure	(M Allen 12, P Taylor 16, C Gotje 2, S Davies 19).
0910:	Citibank NA	(L Harding 19, M Murray 17, G Dickens 11, I Vekiskjold 14).
0920:	Anglo Holt Construction	(A Sly 13, P Western 8, A Mycock 9, M Farmer 2).
0930:	Derby Landscapes	(J Knott 8, C Brown 4, K Topley 13, P Jepson 11).
0940:	Ora Electronics	(M Hanson 10, D Bell 6, A Jeffery 9, I Oosthuizen 19).
0950:	Devonport Management	(G Duffy 10, G Brown 14, I Jolliffe 19, A Rice 12).
1000:	West Bromwich Building Society	(A Messenger 17, C Campbell 10, J Inkley 10, R Mason 16).
1010:	Orchard Toys	(S Newbury 24, D Potter 16, K Harvey 18, R Ford 22).
1020:	Shandon Leisure	(I Ewing 13, M Buxton 8, J Rankellor 13, J Williamson 19).
1030:	AGF Irish Life Holdings	(A Hanratty 17, G O'Loughlin 9, L Kelly 8, J Carey 16).
1040:	Duracell Batteries	(D Rosier 5, P Cleverley 4, P Ellison 18, J Cole 8).

Johnson pays high price to join rat race

John Hopkins *talks to a club*

secretary with a caddying dream

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club, a fine, open course in mid-Gloucestershire, is prey to winds that come whistling over the last escarpment before the Cotswolds tumble down to the Severn plain at Wotton-under-Edge. From this friendly, unpretentious club have come some good senior golfers — and some good juniors, come to that.

The clubhouse is wide and low and, hard by the main entrance, with the pro's shop to the right and the bar to the left, is the secretary's office. It is there that Simon Johnson is normally to be found.

This week, though, the secretary has gone on leave. He is chasing a rainbow. *Many golfers want to become a club secretary, but* Johnson is a club secretary who wants to become a caddie. No more snatches of conversation such as "Morning, Mr Secretary. I see the rabbits are back on the 14th fairway", or "Mr Secretary, I don't suppose you have found my glove, have you? I think I may have dropped it by the 9th green, when I played a round four months ago". Such prosaic exchanges will be replaced by more surly instructions, such as "Get my bag from my car and I'll meet you on the practice ground in 20 minutes".

At the end of December, Johnson will forgo the security of a job, an office and a salary from Stinchcombe Hill as he makes a full-time attempt to become a bag man, a rat, a right-hand man, on-course companion, call him what you will. For now, he is having a dummy run as a caddie over the San Roque and Guadalmina courses in Andalucia, where the 108-hole qualifying school starts this morning. There, 180 professional golfers are attempting to *win the right to play on the* PGA European Tour in 1998.

Many are newcomers, men such as Steven Young, the former Walker Cup player; some, such as Gordon Sherry, Paul Way and Mike McLean, were here last year. Making only his second appearance at a qualifying school is Ross Drummond, who last had to submit himself to this torture 20 years ago.

Southern Spain is a fitting place to be for a man with a head full of dreams. Down here, suntanned old men sit at cafés and bars, drinking beer and remembering past glories. Down here this week, young men fantasise at what might be just around the corner. Get on the tour next year. Compete alongside Severiano Ballesteros. Win a tournament. Find a rich sponsor. *Buy a Porsche. Of all the* places at which to try to realise a lifetime's ambition, the qualifying school may be the most realistic.

Although it seems that Johnson, who is 44, has merely fallen prey to the uncertainties and itchiness that often affect men in their mid-forties, the reality sounds different. "It's fashionable to downshift," he said. "City slickers go and run sub-post offices in Truro. I thought to myself: 'Wow! This could be cool.' I've had 20 years in the aviation business and a few years in the golf environment. Now I am following a dream.

"I am not doing this lightly. Stinchcombe thought I would use it as a springboard to Frilford Heath or Burnham and Berrow, somewhere like that. My wife has been very supportive, but I admit I have some trepidation. There is the lack of finance and the lack of companionship. But one thing I am not is naive. I am very realistic. There are a lot of risks, but I've got a few bob tucked away and the environment and the wanderlust have got me."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

When you need to take ruffs in dummy in one suit and set up another suit, there can be delicate timing problems. This example is from the TGR £100 game.

Dealer South East-West game Rubber bridge

♠8765
♥AJ76
♦A832
♣10

♠2
♥K10
♦K97654
♣Q975

♠1043
♥Q85
♦QJ10
♣AKJ3

♠AKQJ9
♥9432
♦—
♣8642

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: two of spades.

Charles Wigoder (South) opened a dubious One Spade, and North responded Four Clubs, a 'splinter' bid, showing a good raise to Four Spades with club shortage. South completed the auction with Four Spades.

In general one shouldn't lead singleton trumps, but here it proved to be the best start for the defence. Wigoder took the first trick with the nine and played a club. East won and played another trump. Now how should declarer proceed?

A superficial analysis is to ruff a club, play the ace of diamonds discarding a club and ruff a diamond, then ruff another club. That is only nine tricks: East still has a trump left and declarer has two trumps. Declarer needs a second heart trick, and if he has to lose two hearts he will run out of trumps before enjoying his long heart.

Wigoder did better by playing towards dummy's hearts immediately. With the lucky *lie that meant* he was able to bring in the suit for three tricks, so needed only one club ruff.

I think the best line is to ruff a club at trick four and then play ace and another heart. The idea is that if West has to win the second heart, declarer can still arrange to take a second club ruff in dummy, and be in control to establish and cash the fourth heart. Here, say West returns a diamond after winning the *king of hearts. Declarer* wins in dummy (discarding a club from hand), ruffs a diamond and ruffs a club, then plays a third heart from dummy. This line succeeds against the heart holdings on which Wigoder's *line succeeds,* and gains when West fails to unblock from Kx or Qx of hearts when the ace is cashed.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

King's Indian

The King's Indian Defence is one of the great favourites of Garry Kasparov, and has also *been a favoured weapon of* aggressive champions such as Mikhail Tal and Bobby Fischer. A fascinating trend has been developing in King's Indians recently with black players lashing out with a sacrifice of their queen's bishop on the h3 square. Today's games exemplify this new trend. Game one in particular finishes with a beautiful and sensational queen sacrifice.

White: Ljubomir Ftacnik
Black: Oleg Cvitan
German Bundesliga 1997

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	c4	Bg7
4	Nc3	0-0
5	e4	d6
6	Be2	e5
7	0-0	Nc6
8	d5	Ne7
9	Nd2	Ne8
10	b4	f5
11	c5	Nf6
12	f3	f4
13	Nc4	g5
14	a4	Ng6
15	Ba3	Rf7
16	b5	dxc5
17	Bxc5	h5
18	a5	g4
19	b6	g3
20	Kh1	Nh7
21	d6	Qh4
22	Bg1	Bh3
23	bxc7	Bxg2+
24	Kxg2	Qh3+
25	Kxh3	Ng5+
26	Kg2	Nh4+

White resigns

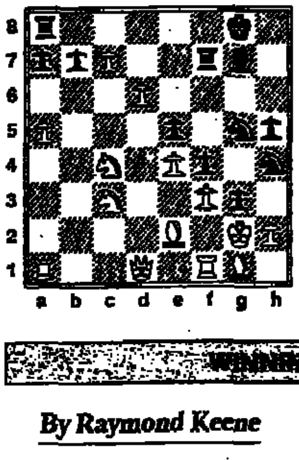
White: Walter Arencibia
Black: Alexander Yermolinsky
World team championship, Lucerne 1997

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	c4	Bg7
4	Nc3	0-0
5	e4	d6
6	Be2	e5
7	0-0	exd4
8	Nxd4	Re8
9	f3	c6
10	Be3	d5
11	cxd5	Nxd5
12	Bf2	Nf4
13	h4	Bh3
14	g3	Nxe2+
15	Ndxe2	Bxf1
16	Qxf1	Nd7
17	Rd1	Qe7
18	Kg2	Rad8
19	a3	Nb6
20	Nd4	h5
21	b4	Rd7
22	Rd3	Red8
23	Nce2	Nc4
24	Qc1	Nd6
25	Nb3	Nb5
26	Rxd7	Qxd7
27	Nc5	Qd2
28	Nxb7	Qxc1
29	Nxc1	Rd2
30	Nb3	Rb2
31	N7a5	Nxa3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

IMBUYA
a. The Zulu knobkerry
b. A tree
c. Passive resistance

METANOIA
a. Hypnotism
b. Repentance
c. Forgetfulness

MURU
a. Robbery
b. The Antipodean mulberry
c. Barter with shells

HEEMRAD
a. A Dutch staysail
b. A petty court
c. A stale loaf

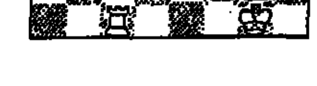
Answers on page 49

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Bennett, Islington 1971.

White's pawns are advancing menacingly on the queen's wing. How did he now force a decisive breakthrough?



Solution on page 49

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 122 Toronto 109; Atlanta 98 Washington 89 (OT); Orlando 112 L A Clippers 94; Houston 95 New York 84; Milwaukee 87 Detroit 79; Vancouver 100 Denver 87, Minnesota 108 Phoenix 90; L A Lakers 97 Utah 92; Sacramento 102 Dallas 95
EUROPEAN CUP: Group E: London Towers 56 Beobanka Belgrade 65
SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-final: Birmingham Bullets 111 Worthing Bears 80.

BOXING

MANSFIELD LEISURE CENTRE: World Boxing Organisation inter-continental featherweight championship: S Robinson (Cardiff, holder) bt A Johnson (Ton) rsc 7th rnd. Middle: M Sawyers (Bristol) bt K Laing (Kidderminster) rsc 1st rnd; M Gater (Thurnon) bt C Pollock (Bedworth) pts. Light-welter: D Keyho (Northampton) drew with P Nightingale (Wensbury). Light: J Dee (Neath) bt D Roberts (Dolgellau) pts. Feather: R Evatt (Coventry) bt R Valentino (Welling) rsc 3rd rnd, C Greaves (Newark) ko G Burrell (Kirkaldy) 4th rnd

CRICKET

First Test match

India v Sri Lanka

MOHALI (India won toss, first day five): Sri Lanka with six first-innings wickets in hand, have scored 280 runs against India

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Chauhan b Srinath	53
M S Atapattu lbw b Srinath	108
R S Mahanama lbw b Kumble	42
P A de Silva b Kuruvilla	33
*A Ranatunga not out	14
H P Tillekeratne not out	9
Extras (b 4, lb 8 nb 9)	21
Total (4wkts, 90 overs)	280

†L de Silva, H D P K Dharmasena, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan and S C de Silva to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-98, 2-202, 3-254, 4-254

BOWLING: Srinath 17-2-66-2, Kuruvilla 13-3-45-1, Mohanty 16-1-52-0, Kumble 26-7-71-1, Ganguly 2-2-0-0, Chauhan 16-2-34-0.

INDIA: *S R Tendulkar, N S Sidhu, S C Ganguly, R S Dravid, M Azharuddin, †N R Mongia, A Kumble, J Srinath, R K Chauhan, A Kuruvilla, D B Mohanty.

Umpires: S Bucknor (West Indies) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Arsenal 1 Coventry 0 (aet); Derby 0 Newcastle 1; Leeds 2 Reading 3; Liverpool 3 Grimsby 0, Middlesbrough 2 Bolton 1 (aet, 1-1 after 90min), Oxford 1 Ipswich 2 (aet 1-1 after 90min)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford 1 Sheffield United 1. Second division: Bournemouth 2 Southend 1, Bristol City 2 Plymouth 1, Burnley 1 Millwall 2; Carlisle 0 Chesterfield 2; Fulham 1 York 1; Gillingham 1 Blackpool 1, Northampton 4 Brentford 0; Preston 1 Bristol Rovers 2; Watford 2 Oldham 1, Wycombe 0 Wrexham 0. Third division: Barnet 3 Torquay 3; Cambridge 1 Brighton 1, Cardiff 2 Hull 1, Chester 0 Peterborough 0, Colchester 2 Notts County 0; Darlington 1 Leyton Orient 0, Exeter 1 Mansfield 0; Hartlepool 2 Rochdale 0; Lincoln 2 Doncaster 1; Rotherham 1 Scunthorpe 3, Scarborough 3 Swansea 2, Shrewsbury 4 Macclesfield 3
SPALDING CUP: Second round: Hayes 2 Slough 0, Morecambe 3 Leek 2: Woking 4 Kettering 0
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 3 Rothwell 1; Dorchester 0 *Crawley 1; Gloucester 4 Bromsgrove 2;* Halesowen 1 Burton 1; Nuneaton 0 King's Lynn 1. Tamworth 6 Gresley 3. Midland division: Bedworth 1 Hinckley 3 Bilston 2 Ilkeston 2. Blakenall 4 Corby 2; Moor Green 1 Stourbridge 1, Redditch 5 Sutton Coldfield Town 1, Stafford 2 Solihull Boro 1. Southern division: Witney 1 Trowbridge 1: Yate 1 Newport AFC 2. Postponed: Newport (IoW) v Weymouth, Waterlooville v Tonbridge Angels
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blyth Spartans 0 Emley 2. First division: Matlock Town 2 Lincoln 3, Worksop 0 Belper Town 0. Unifilla First division Cup: First round: Gretna 2 Workington 0. Netherfield 0 Great Harwood 2: Witton 0 Trafford 0 (match abandoned after 6min, floodlight failure)
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian 3 Gravesend and Northfleet 1 First division: Berkhamsted 1 Wembley 2, Wokingham 1 Greys 2. Second division *Braintree 4 Banstead 0, Marlow 4 Windsor* and Eton 1. Northwood 0 Wivenhoe 3. Tooting and Mitcham 2 Bracknell 3 Third division: Flackwell Heath 1 Camberley 3. Associate Members Trophy: Second round: Postponed: Lewes v Horsham Full Members Cup: First round. Hitchin 1 Boreham Wood 2 Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round: Hendon 2 Canvey Island 4 Second-round replay: Aveley 1 Basingstoke 3
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Postponed; Burgess Hill v Portfield: Whitehawk v Hailsham
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 M Blackstone 3, Bourne 3 Stamford 5, Cogenhoe 0 Ford Sports 0; Eynesbury 0 Potton 1, Long Buckby 2 Buckingham 2; S and L Corby 3 Wellingborough 1
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE. Cup: Second round., Malvern 0 Bloxwich Stollers 8. Stourport 5 Stafford 1 Postponed: Cradley v Wolverhampton.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H 3 Barwell 2. Invitation Cup: Boldmere St Michaels 3 Shifnal 2; Bridgnorth 5 Studley BKL 2
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 4 Westfield 1; Merstham 2 Cranleigh 1; Sandhurst 1 Hartley Wintney 2 Postponed: Farnham v Cove. Premier Challenge Cup: *Cobham 2 Bedfont 1.*
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Presidents Cup: Leicester YMCA 0 Barlestone St Giles 0.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 0 Lowestoft 2: Ely 2 Newmarket 1; Fakenham 1 Bury Town 1, Halstead 1 Felixstowe Port and Town 4 Histon 2 Stowmarket 0; Sudbury 1 Harwich and Parkeston 0. Tiptree 2 Sudbury Wanderers 4, Warboys 1 Soham 3, Woodbridge 1 Clacton 1; Wroxham 0 Gorleston 0
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT 4 Brockenhurst 2; Thatcham 3 Portsmouth RN 1.
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers Premier division Cup: Brimsdown 0 Barkingside 2.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 0 Mossley 0; Kidsgrove 5 Maine Road 2; Salford 4 Prescot Cables 0.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hatfield Main 1 Liversedge 1
LEAGUE OF WALES: Cup: Second round, first leg: Barry 2 Rhayader Town 0
FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Dundalk 0 Shelbourne 1
CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: First round: Ballymena 2 Ballyclare 3, Bangor 1 Cliftonville 2 (aet, 1-1 after 90min): Crusaders 3 Newry 2 (aet, 2-2 after 90min): Distillery 0 Glentoran 0 (aet), Dundela 5 Carrick 3, Dungannon Swifts 1 Larne 5. Linfield 2 Killyleagh 0: Portadown 4 Ards 2.
ITALIAN CUP: Third round, second leg: Internazionale 0 Piacenza 1 (Internazionale win 3-1 on agg).
GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Dortmund 2 Wolfsburg 1. Werder Bremen 2 Schalke 04 1, Karlsruhe 1 VfL Bochum 1, MSV Duisburg 3 SV Hamburg 0
DUTCH LEAGUE: NAC Breda 0 Willem II Tilburg 2. Cup: Second round: Roda JC Kerkrade 1 Veendam 0. PSV Eindhoven 3 Telstar Ijmuiden 4
BELGIAN LEAGUE: Lommel 2 Anderlecht 2.
SCHOOL MATCH: Fuji Film Trophy: Third round: Bedford 1 North Kent 3

GOLF

KAUAI, Hawaii: PGA Grand Slam: Final scores: 133: E Els (SA) 68, 65. 136: T Woods (US) 66, 70. 138: D Love (US) 71, 67. 149: J Leonard (US) 77, 72

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 3 Florida 1: New Jersey 2 Calgary 1; Washington 6 Colorado 6 (OT), San Jose 4 Anaheim 2
EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Dynamo Moscow 9 Manchester Storm 3
SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffield Steelers 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 1

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First-round draw: for the Worth Village v Fulham Travellers: Charleston v West London Colonials. West Bowling v Thornhill, Redhill v Wigan St Judes, Oulton Raiders v Loughborough University: Wigan Rose Bridge v Kells, Normanton Knights v Folly Lane: Leigh East v East Hull; Skirlaugh Bulls v Blackpool Gladiators, Moldgreen v Barrow Island; Blackbrook v Haydock, Dewsbury Moor v Dublin Blues; Teesside Steelers v Leeds University; New Earswick All Blacks v BRK, Milford v Queens; London Skolars v Myton Warriors; Ideal ABI v Hunslet Warriors: Ellenborough Rangers v *Crosfields, Siddal v Lindley Swifts.* Eccles v Featherstone Lions; Broughton Red Rose v Hull Dockers, Millom v York Acorn, Ovenden v Dodworth; Waterhead v Westgate Redoubt: Stanningley v Nottingham Crusaders, Shaw Cross v Clayton, Farnworth v Lowca; Queensbury v East Leeds; John Moores University v Eastmoor Dragons: Norland v Westfield
☐ Ties to be played on December 6 and 7

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Blackheath 2 Tonga XV 20; Emerging England 22 New Zealand XV 59 (at Huddersfield), Scottish Borders 15 ACT 26 (at Mansfield Park, Hawick), France A 21 South Africa XV 7 (at Toulon).

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Second leg (Cape Town to Fremantle) Positions (at 1200 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle): 1, Swedish Match (Swe) 1,355.7; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,658.2; 3, Toshiba (US) 1,765.4; 4, EF Language (Swe) 1,946.4; 5, Silk Cut (GB) 2,022.5; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 2,060.3; 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 2,227; 8, EF Education (Swe) 2,241.1; 9, *BrunelSunergy (Holl) 2,279.1*

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship: Third round: A McManus (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 9-3, M King (Eng) bt J Parrott (Eng) 9-6, M Stevens (Wales) bt A Drago (Malta) 9-8, D Morgan (Wales) bt B Jones (Eng) 9-6, J Prince (N Ire) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 9-5, S Lee (Eng) bt C Small (Scot) 9-4, G Wilkinson (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 9-8, R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads T Murphy (N Ire) 5-3

TENNIS

NEW YORK: Chase championship: First round: I Majoli (Cro) bt A Huber (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; M Hingis (Switz) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 7-6, 5-2 ret; J Novotna (Cz) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-4, 6-4
PATTAYA, Thailand: Volvo Women's Open: Second round: C Morariu (US) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2

VOLLEYBALL

HIROSHIMA: World grand champions Cup: Men: Brazil 3 China 0, Holland 3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: *Treble chance 24pts* £77.70, 23 £9.25, 4 draws £2.95, 9 homes paid on 8 homes £2,327, 5 aways £8.55
VERNONS: Treble Chance 24pts £30.95, 23 £2.90, Super shots £5.10, Premier 10 £13.85 paid on 7 correct
ZETTERS: Treble chance 24pts £9.55 23 60p. Four aways £1.50 Eight homes £1,170.90 Four draws £4 Fair five £100.56

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

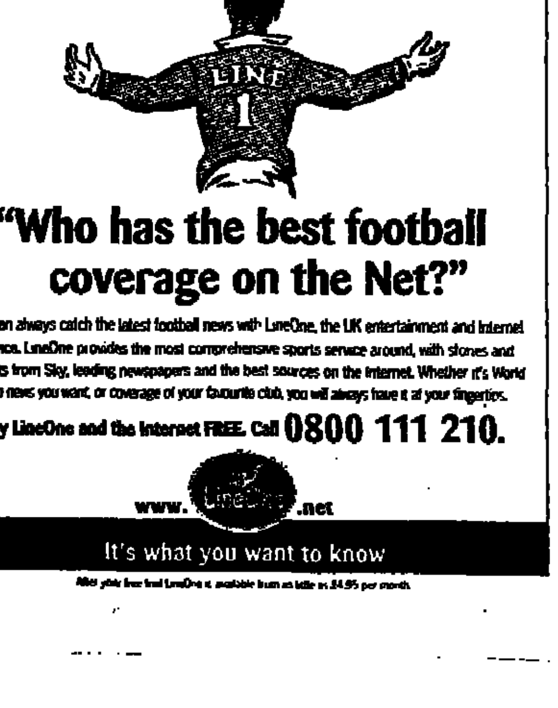
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Swindon Town (at Loftus Road, 2.0).
PONTINS LEAGUE: Cup: Group three: Notts County v Leicester (7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Sale v Tonga XV (7.30)
CLUB MATCHES: Boroughmuir v Kirkcaldy (7.0); Kilmarnock v Ayr (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0). Classic Cola National Cup. Quarter-final: London Towers v Manchester Giants (8.0)
HOCKEY: British Aerospace national schools championships: Under-16: East (at University of East Anglia, Norwich), South (at Southampton)
ICE HOCKEY: Express Cup: Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Bison (7.30)
SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston)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Australia to make a late decision on kicker

By Kevin Ferrie

ROD MACQUEEN, the Australia coach, yesterday named an unchanged side for the meeting with Scotland on Saturday, but he admitted to a real dilemma over his choice of place-kicker for the Murrayfield international.

Having drawn with England last Saturday and outscored them by two tries to nil, Macqueen believes that his men improved substantially on their showing in losing to Argentina a week earlier and he is looking for further progress this weekend.

"Whilst we didn't feel we played to the standard we would have liked, i felt there was a definite step up from the performance in Argentina, but we are looking for another step up so we went for consistent team selection," he said.

He identified the lineout — where the Australians believed they suffered through English interference on their put-in as much as having difficulties of their own making — as an area of particular concern, however the critical problem is the goal-kicking after the woeful display of John Eales at Twickenham.

Earlier in the week the captain had indicated, half-jokingly, that he would be happy to hand over the kicking duties, but said yesterday: "It doesn't worry me. If I'm the one, I'm the one." It was hardly a convincing speech and, pressed on the matter, Macqueen admitted to reservations. "The situation does worry me, but I'm trying not to talk about it too much," he said. "We will be making a decision on the place-kicker tomorrow."

Clearly the main choice is between Eales and Joe Roff, the wing, who took over from him against England. There is, though, a third option in Elton Flatley, the fly half. He may be preparing for only his second international, having been elevated from the back-up squad on this tour, but he knows all about kicking at Murrayfield after playing there for Australian Schools in their narrow win there three years ago.

Against a Scottish Schools side that contained James Craig, who makes his senior debut on Saturday, Flatley was Australia's goal-kicker that day.

"I had missed three very kickable chances to put us further ahead, but Scotland scored a penalty with only a couple of minutes to go to take the lead," he said. "Then I got the chance from just inside their half with the last kick of the game and put it over." Craig's speed set up one of Scotland's tries that day.

Scotland's preparations were slightly disrupted yesterday. Alan Tait, who played for the British Isles in the summer, missing training because Mike, his seven-year-old son, had been taken to hospital on Tuesday night suffering from a twisted testicle. "We had no qualms about Alan going home. He had to be there, but his son is all right," Arthur Hastie, the team manager, said, after Tait had rejoined the party.

TEAM

AUSTRALIA: S Larkham; B Tune, T Horan, P Howard, J Roff; E Flatley, G Gregan; R Harry, M Foley, A Blades, J Langford, J Eales, O Finegan, B Robinson, V Ofahengaue.

Replacements: M Hardy, S Payne, D Wilson, M Cockbain, A Heath, M Caputo.

David Hands wonders if the latest All Blacks are unbeatable

New Zealand in pursuit of perfection

John Hart was asked on Tuesday night whether the New Zealand midweek XV might not just also be the second-best team in the world — behind his Saturday XV. Hart, good diplomat and shrewd psychologist that he is, skirted the issue and spoke about the different circumstances of international rugby, but there were few happier men in Huddersfield after his second-string XV had demolished Emerging England 59-22.

Emerging England? It is arguable whether the XV on Tuesday, including seven British Isles players, was that much weaker than the team that played in the international against Australia on Saturday and the England management has acknowledged that a repeat of such a performance against New Zealand at Old Trafford on Saturday will lead to an out-and-out hiding.

So where have New Zealand gone so right while the rest of the rugby-playing world struggles to catch up? Under Hart's coaching, they have played 19 internationals in the past 18 months and lost only one, on tour in South Africa on August 31 last year, after they had already clinched the series, for the first time on South African soil — yet they are benefiting from more than just the association of visionary coach and talented players. The All Blacks are where they are now in part because of where they have been over the past hundred years.

It is hard to overemphasise the depth to which rugby union penetrates life in New Zealand. It is a national expression and has been since the first All Blacks left their shores, around the turn of the century, and discovered that they could make the rest of the world take notice. Every new All Black is conscious of the weight of history on his shoulders, of the need not just to play for his country but to play well for his country.

For many years, that meant a conservative style, in which victory was all-important and which reflected the national psyche in New Zealand — but not in recent times. In 1991, they suffered what they regarded as failure, dismissal from the World Cup at the semi-final stage and the knowledge that their image was drastically inferior to that of their neighbours, Australia. Hart, as co-coach to Alex Wyllie, witnessed that and, although he did not become the national coach until another five years had passed, it pained him.

In between came the Laurie Mains era, which laid much of the groundwork for the present side: Sean Fitzpatrick came of age as an international captain then, the sport embraced professionalism and the southern hemisphere created a competition that is as near as its contestants can make it to international standard — the Super 12 tournament. The period of introspection that followed 1991 took time to bear fruit, but the present squad are the direct beneficiaries.

Their failure to win the World Cup in 1995 was, perhaps, the final spur. They played the best rugby of that competition, but they did not win it and, because New Zealanders will always analyse failure before they congratulate themselves on their success, they were prepared to leave even less to chance than before. Hart's analytical approach has encompassed the strategy of the game and the individuals who play it.

Mastery of the basic skills has been fundamental to the All Blacks and professionalism has given them even greater opportunity to hone those skills and their fitness levels. Hart, though, insists that everything hinges upon the intensity with which they prepare for and play the game. "We are trying to play a game we can all enjoy and, at the same time, find the consistency which is the hallmark of all good sides," he said.

He compares his team now to the great Auckland sides that he coached and believes that his players are "getting on top of" the 80-minute game. In every international this season, there have been complaints that New Zealand have either started poorly or finished poorly; there were few such complaints at Huddersfield, where so proud a performance must leave players like Scott McCleod, so frequently a replacement, Mark Robinson and Todd Miller wondering what else they must do to attain international rugby.

The two 22-year-olds stamped class over the evening, Miller scoring three tries from full back; yet they must wait in line behind the two players who are the best in the world in their positions — Justin Marshall, at scrum half, and Christian Cullen. Sometimes, it is hard to be an All Black. It is harder still playing against them.

'In 1991, they suffered what they regarded as failure . . . Hart witnessed that'

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

McCleod, another on the All Blacks' fringes, takes up the charge at Huddersfield

NEW ZEALAND'S RECORD UNDER JOHN HART

1996		1997	
beat Western Samoa 51-10	(Napier)	[illegible]	[illegible]
beat Scotland 62-31	(Dunedin)	[illegible]	(Wellington)
beat Scotland 36-12	(Auckland)	[illegible]	(Hamilton)
beat Australia 43-6	(Wellington)	beat Australia 30-13	(Christchurch)
beat South Africa 15-11	(Christchurch)	beat South Africa 35-32	(Johannesburg)
beat Australia 32-25	(Brisbane)	beat Australia 33-18	(Melbourne)
beat South Africa 29-18	(Cape Town)	beat South Africa 55-35	(Auckland)
beat South Africa 23-19	(Durban)	beat Australia 36-24	(Dunedin)
beat South Africa 33-26	(Pretoria)	beat Ireland 63-15	(Dublin)
lost to South Africa 22-32	(Johannesburg, 31-8-96)		

P	W	L	Pts for	Pts against
19	18	1	824	350

WHAT SETS THE ALL BLACKS APART? THE EXPERTS GIVE THEIR VERDICT

Jack Rowell

England coach 1994-97, and beaten by All Blacks in 1995 World Cup semi-final

"In 1994 I was talking about the need to develop interactive rugby. Once the set-piece was over, every player had to be multi-skilled. This is the type of rugby New Zealand are into. It is all underpinned by massive fitness, pace and skill. I used to talk of the All Blacks having 15 battleships, mentally and physically. Sometimes they are able to make the game look like a non-contact sport. In their ruthless pursuit of excellence they divided up their country for the Super-12, all to ensure their best players competed at the top level. John Hart also inherited a squad from Laurie Mains that is still together. Hart has just added his own dimension. By the end of last year England had the defence organised and had developed a style of attacking play and I felt we could have gone forward from there."

Geoff Cooke

England manager 1987-94, and victorious against the All Blacks in 1993

"Clive Woodward has a nightmare on his hands. The problems of putting out scratch teams were horribly exposed on Tuesday night. The only solution is to put out our best club sides, such as Wasps and Leicester, against tourists. At least they are organised units. New Zealand are a very, very good side. Every player understands his role on the field and they all make good decisions on the ball. In 1993 we watched their every move; we spent weeks planning their downfall. That game at Twickenham was a one-off. We had a limited game-plan and we stopped New Zealand in their tracks. We can do it occasionally but we have got to get into the situation where we can do it consistently. Realistically I would expect us to compete. At the moment England lack maturity. It will be a fantastic effort if we get close to them."

Brian Ashton

Coach of the Ireland side that suffered a record defeat last Saturday

"Against sides of this calibre, you have got to be switched on tactically for the full 80 minutes because the game can slide away from you so very, very quickly. They are relentless, powerful men, very dynamic. They put us on the back foot. Their ball retention is superb. They are constantly going forward, which makes it easy for support players to knock off anyone trying to interfere with the ball. They are the best side in the world, the best I have ever seen. In the second half at Lansdowne Road, one could see all their old attributes: power, pace, vision. They have footballers all over the field. In one 15-minute period we touched the ball just twice. They play with remarkable patience and control, just waiting for defences to run out of numbers. I have no idea how England will get on; I have no idea how they are playing."

Greg Smith

Australia coach 1995-97, who suffered five successive defeats by the All Blacks

"I think New Zealand revolve around their tight five and the strength of a player like Frank Bunce. Bunce is not such an obviously innovative player as some but in his own way, he is. People find it very difficult to put him on the ground. That strength is supported by brilliant individuals such as Cullen and Marshall, and they have so much depth that someone like Andrew Mehrtens, who I rate very highly, has not played much this year. The fitness levels and conditioning of the All Blacks allows them to turn out unchanged XVs match after match. They are not unbeatable but their quality demands that opponents achieve some degree of ascendancy early on. If you make a mistake they will punish you, and when you play them as often as we do, it can become intimidating."

Gary Teichmann

S Africa captain whose side was the last to beat New Zealand, in August 1996

"You have got to deny them the ball. If there is one side that can keep the ball for a long period of time, it's the All Blacks. You have to cut your mistakes down to a bare minimum. They have got so much confidence in winning. You only get that when you have been together for so long. Rugby is such a team game that you have to rely on a lot of other people. An international is an international though, and on their day England can beat any side. If you do the basics properly, get possession and make them do the defending, then you can win. What they are good at is being able to pick up the pace of the game when they want to. They work hard at their game, they have a good structure and have been fortunate with injuries. The senior guys have just kept going."

John Mitchell

England assistant coach; toured with All Blacks in 1993

"The Super 12 tournament has taken players to another level. Players are involved in that for three months, then the All Blacks are together for seven weeks, then they play in the national provincial championship, all of which demands good football on a regular basis. These guys had great habits and disciplines when they were amateurs. They didn't need money to make them professional. But good as they were, they have become even better and the New Zealand union has contracted the best 150 of them to play the highest possible standard of regional rugby. We have only half that number of players in England, who are not even playing intense club rugby regularly. We can teach players good habits here but at the moment we haven't got the playing structure whereas in New Zealand they have."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Moorcroft rescue plan wins approval

ATHLETICS: David Moorcroft's plan to rescue British athletics from its financial problems and safeguard its future was accepted yesterday by the United Kingdom Sports Council. It has also been approved by the insolvency practitioners who were called in last month with the British Athletic Federation (BAF) facing a deficit of £530,000.

Details will be outlined next week, but Moorcroft's plan will involve setting up a small project group, whose task will be to establish a new structure for the sport in Britain.

Moorcroft, who took over the role of BAF chief executive before the scale of the problems were evident, yesterday met Sir Rodney Walker, the Sports Council's acting chairman, and Roger Eady, the council's performance development director. "David's plans have been warmly welcomed by all parties," a council spokesman said.

England ticket

COMMONWEALTH GAMES: The England team for the 1998 Games will be commercially sponsored for the first time. Vimto, the soft drinks company, is giving £100,000 to support England at "the friendly games" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September.

The quadrennial event will attract 6,000 competitors from 60 countries in 15 sports, with England sending 350, the biggest squad in the 68 years of the Games. Next year there will be competitions for the first time in traditional Commonwealth sports, such as cricket, hockey, rugby, netball, squash and tenpin bowling.

Taylor's choice

CRICKET: Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said yesterday that he would not hesitate to join a players' strike if the country's first-class cricketers voted for industrial action in pursuit of a pay claim. On the eve of the second Test against New Zealand at the Waca Ground in Perth, Taylor confirmed his total support for the Australian Cricketers' Association.

"I'm obviously captain of the Australian side but I'm a member of the ACA and if the numbers stacked up that way I would [go on strike], yes," Taylor said.

Merle returns

RUGBY UNION: Olivier Merle, the giant France lock forward who scored a try when he led a second-half revival after coming on as a replacement in the 36-32 defeat by South Africa in Lyons last week, is back in the side to play the Springboks in the second international at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Merle's return means that Fabien Pelous sits on the replacements' bench. The other change in the side sees the Brive threequarter, David Venditti, replace Laurent Leflamand on the right wing. Venditti's last cap was in the 29-15 defeat by Australia in Sydney in June.

Atapattu puts Sri Lanka in command

MARVAN ATAPATTU, the Sri Lanka batsman, hit his maiden Test century to put his side in charge of the first Test in Mohali, India, yesterday. The stylish right-hander, who failed to make a run in four Test innings in India in 1993, made amends with 108 here to carry the tourists to 280 for four by close of play on the opening day.

Atapattu put on 98 for the first wicket with Sanath Jayasuriya and 104 for the second with Roshan Mahanama before reaching his century an hour after tea with his thirteenth boundary.

Sri Lanka were 254 for two when India hit back with two wickets off successive balls shortly before the close. Atapattu was out leg-before to Srinath and De Silva was bowled by Kuruvilla after making 33.

Scoreboard, page 45

CRICKET: TOURING TEAM'S HOPES OF AVOIDING DEFEAT DEPEND ON LARA IN FIRST TEST

West Indies' decline gathering pace

From Michael Henderson in Peshawar

FROM time to time there comes a moment when a team's decline is revealed in a way that leaves no room for doubt. It came here shortly after lunch on the third day, as the Pakistan innings entered its tenth hour with West Indies helpless to deny them a healthy lead, which eventually reached 230.

Rawl Lewis, a leg spinner of no great means, came round the wicket to Inzamam, who had spent his entire innings with a runner. Hobbling about on his one good leg, he had still driven Lewis for two mighty straight sixes, to compensate for the runs — as many as 20 — that he had passed up as he managed the strike.

With the field spread out, and a mediocre wrist spinner directing the ball a foot outside leg stump, West Indies were doing no more than clinging on until they had to bat again.

After all the years they have bombarded other teams into submission with their fast bowlers, it had come to this. And a pitiful spectacle it made.

Unable to bat or bowl with the necessary skill or discipline, they have failed utterly to disguise the wretched state of their cricket. Had Inzamam reached his century, the humiliation would have been complete. Instead, he was eight runs short when Walsh closed the innings with his fifth wicket. Walsh had dropped Inzamam on five, almost exactly 24 hours before.

As others have found, this is an unforgiving place to play. Bishop was driven to distraction when Said Shah, the local umpire, refused to give Inzamam out leg-before on 40. It was a good shout, rather better than the one that led to Campbell's dismissal on the first morning, when Shah was feeling more indulgent. Bishop stood before him, aghast, begging to know how the ball could have missed the wicket.

It would be wrong to suggest that West Indies deserved the breaks. Their bowling, led manfully by Walsh, who cannot have in him many more days like this, is unconvincing on good pitches. Lewis is a tyro, Hooper a lightweight and Simmons a mere dobber. Ambrose, on whom so much depends, left the field without a wicket. There is not a lot left in him, either.

Starting the day on 246 for five, Pakistan soon lost Azhar but Moin Khan survived a life that Lara granted him to complete a hard-fought 50. When he went, and Arshad followed, West Indies could still have restricted the lead to 160 or thereabouts. Inzamam, supported by Nazir and Mushtaq, enabled the last two wickets to realise 77 runs.

It was quite an achievement for Inzamam to bat for 4½ hours with an injured left foot, but West Indies seemed in no hurry to see the back of him. Simmons, running back from slip, missed another chance towards the end of the innings, by which stage an air of resignation had set in. It deepened when Williams was out to the new ball, and Chanderpaul fell to Mushtaq.

However, while there is Lara, there is hope for West Indies, who had reached 99 for two at the close. He ended the day in scalding form, jumping out of his crease to lift Arshad for three boundaries in an over and, when Mushtaq replaced the off spinner, forcing three more through cover. He must make a big hundred, a double even, today.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings: 151 (Mushtaq Ahmed 5-35)

Second innings

S C Williams lbw b Wasim 2
S L Campbell not out 34
S Chanderpaul c Ijaz b Mushtaq 14
B C Lara not out 36
Extras: (b 5, lb 1, nb 7) 13
Total: (2wkts, 30 overs) 99
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-56.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-4-20-1, Shahid Nazir 3.5-0-17-0; Azhar Mahmood 4 1-2-6-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 8-2-32-1; Arshad Khan 6-2-18-0.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Saeed Anwar c Williams b Hooper 65
Aamir Sohail c Lara b Walsh 4
Ijaz Ahmed c Hooper b Bishop 65
Mohammad Wasim b Walsh 28
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 92
†Moin Khan c Walsh b Bishop 58
*Wasim Akram st Williams b Hooper 5
Azhar Mahmood c Hooper b Walsh 16
Arshad Khan c Lara b Bishop 4
Shahid Nazir b Walsh 18
Mushtaq Ahmed b Walsh 4
Extras: (b 2, lb 7, nb 11, w 2) 22
Total: (132 overs) 381

FALL OF WICKET: 1-10, 2-143, 3-145, 4-193, 5-207, 6-250, 7-294, 8-304, 9-347.

BOWLING: Ambrose 25-4-76-0, Walsh 32-9-78-5, Bishop 29-7-76-3, Simmons 2-0-9-0; Lewis 24-6-83-0; Hooper 20-7-40-2.

Umpires: D Shepherd (England) and Said Shah (Pakistan).

Hughes book award hits the critics for six

By Simon Wilde

SIMON HUGHES, the former Middlesex and Durham bowler, won the William Hill sports book of the year yesterday with his entertaining and candid account of life as a county cricketer, *A Lot of Hard Yakka*, published by Headline. It is the first time a cricket theme has won the prize, which is in its ninth year.

Hughes's success is unlikely to have a similar impact on cricket writing as Nick Hornby's did on football after he won the 1992 award, but still it should be welcomed.

There is a long-standing and widespread supposition that cricket literature is among the finest in all sport. However, John Gaustad, the chairman of the adjudicating panel, had said this week: "Many cricket books are traditional and hidebound. I think its market is in danger of dying." If Hughes's example is followed, that outcome should be averted. He was inspired to tell his tale by a magazine article three years ago calling for someone to give cricket "the Nick Hornby treatment".

Hughes, who had been scribbling observations of matches since the age of 11, realised he had the material.

"I was something of an outsider and observer, who spent most of his career fielding on the boundary," Hughes said. "It gave me the chance to hear what spectators really wanted to know."

Richard Williams's forensic study of Formula One, *Racers*, published by Viking, won the second prize.

The award for the best cover went to Richard and Fiona Bailey for their photographic collection, *The Road to Glory: Portraits of Britain's Paralympians* (Quiller Press).

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Moorcroft rescue plan wins approval

■ ATHLETICS: David Moorcroft's plan to rescue British athletics from its financial problems and [illegible] its future was [illegible] yesterday by the United Kingdom Sports [illegible]

England ticket

■ COMMONWEALTH GAMES: The England team for the 1998 Games will be commercially sponsored for the first time. Vimto, the soft drinks company, is [illegible]

Taylor's choice

■ CRICKET: [illegible]

RACING

Pub betting among BHB's proposals to bolster finances

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

A BLUEPRINT for funding racing in the 21st Century will urge the Government to switch up to £75 million a year from betting duty into the sport — and allow punters to have a flutter in pubs.

The radical proposals will be included in a report, due to be completed next month by the British Horseracing Board (BHB), which examines the industry's financial plight.

A small BHB group, chaired by Peter Savill, has analysed the sport's funding difficulties — particularly low levels of prize-money — and estimated racing needs an extra £80 million to £100 million a year. Savill's team has put forward three ways of raising the funds — each of which is likely to infuriate the bookmaking industry.

First, the BHB will request the Government to cut betting duty by up to 1.75 per cent from its present rate of 6.75 per cent and transfer the money to the levy coffers. That would cost the Government about £115 million in revenue and would benefit racing by around £75 million. The loss to the Government could be recovered, the Savill team argues, by introducing a 30 per cent tax on numbers betting — such as 49ers and Lucky Choice — and by allowing bookmakers to bet on National Lottery numbers.

Numbers betting, which contributed to the record profits returned recently by the "Big Three" bookmakers, is taxed at 6.75 per cent compared to 40 per cent (12 per cent Government tax plus 28 per cent "good causes") on the National Lottery and 43 per cent (33 per cent Government tax and 10 per cent "good causes") on football pools.

Judged on Ireland, where 8 per cent of betting is on the Lottery, the Government could expect tax income of £165 million. Less than £400 million would need to be bet on numbers for the proposed betting duty changes to cost the Government nothing, Savill's team believes.

Second, the BHB wants a bigger take from the profits made by on-course bookmakers at Britain's 59 racecourses. They generate about £400 million in betting turnover each year yet pay only 0.9 per cent — £3.5 million — to racecourses, compared to 5 to 7 per cent paid by the Tote on-course. Racecourses should impose pitch fees based on a true market value, although the Savill team acknowledges this would require legislation.

Third, and perhaps most controversial, the report is expected to recommend that betting terminals be allowed in pubs — as they are in Australia, France and South Africa.

In recent years, deregulation has seen the introduction of numbers betting and fruit machines into traditional betting shops, which has caused racing's market share to decrease by about 1 per cent a year for the past five years. Although betting shops enjoy a monopoly to distribute racing's off-course product, they no longer offer horse and greyhound racing exclusively to customers.

Indeed, the estimated higher margins offered by betting on football (35 per cent), golf (35 per cent) and numbers betting (44 per cent), compared to horseracing (23 per cent) and greyhounds (21 per cent), means betting shops promote the new products more energetically — especially as the tax rate is the same.

Significantly, the Savill team has discovered the cost of operating betting outlets in Britain — equivalent to 13.9 per cent of betting turnover — is exceptionally high compared to other countries. However, the cost of having betting in pubs would be much lower — about 5 per cent of turnover.

Allowing betting terminals in pubs would create more competition between the Tote and the "Big Three", appeal to new customers — and boost turnover for evening and Sunday racing, it is argued.

The Savill team was initially asked to review the levy system of funding racing which has been in operation for more 30 years. While in favour of a more commercial system of funding, such a change should only take place when the annual levy matches racing's needs — probably double the present £55 million a year return.

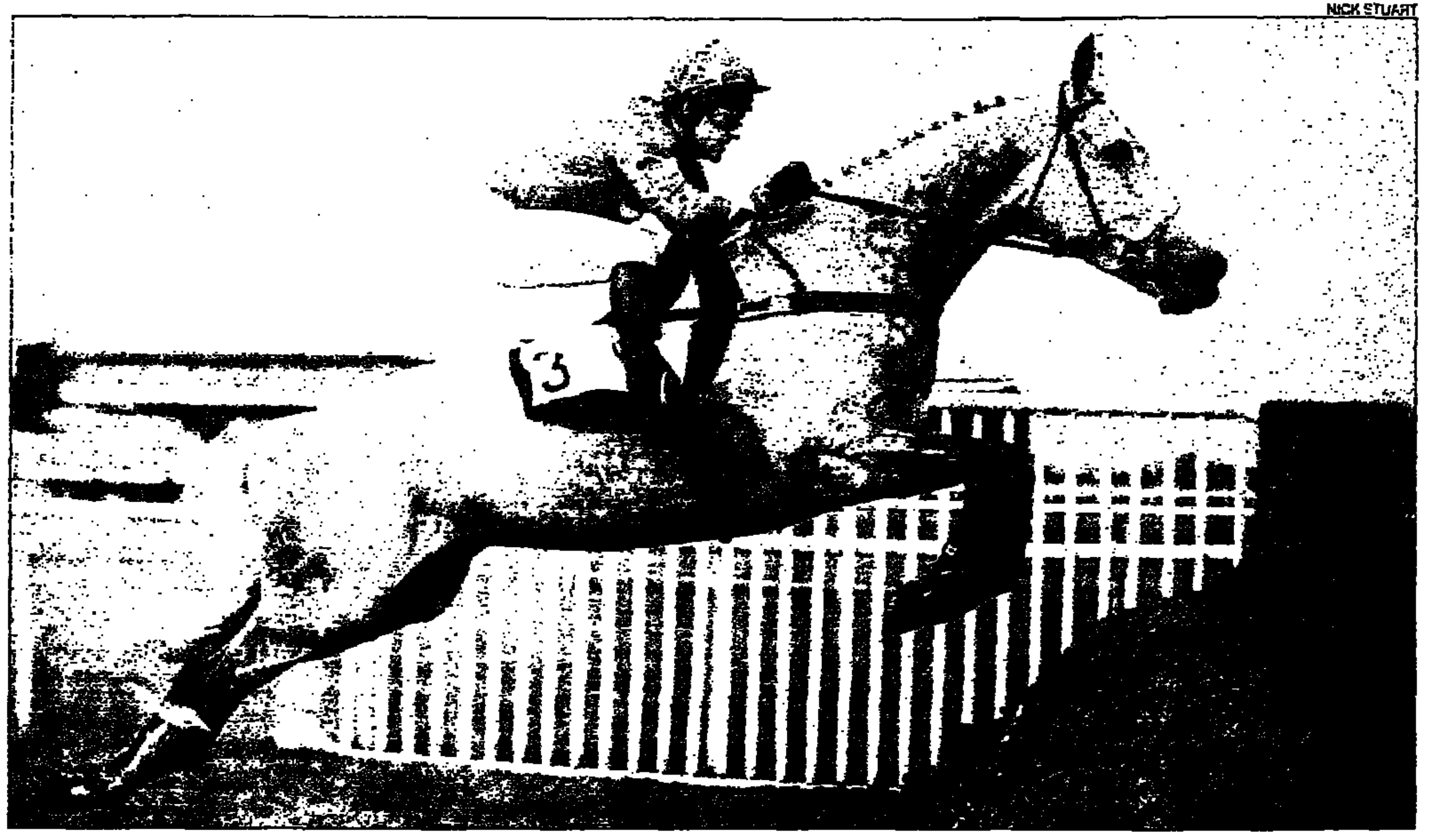
Although the main planks of the Savill report are in place, some fine tuning is still to be carried out — particularly the level of betting duty reduction the BHB should request from the Government.

However, such details are unlikely to prevent the big bookmakers mounting the fiercest opposition to the broad thrust of the Savill report.

KEY POINTS IN BLUEPRINT

① **Allow betting terminals in pubs.**
② **Government to switch £75m to racing's coffers.**
③ **Higher tax on numbers betting.**
④ **Bigger take from on-course bookmakers.**

NICK STUART



Suny Bay warms up Hennessy market

By Chris McGrath

RACING offers no spectacle quite so vivid as that of a grey steeplechaser, illuminating the murk of winter with the raw brightness of his energy, athleticism and power. At Haydock Park yesterday, Suny Bay produced a performance that reflected the dramatic image struck over recent seasons by Desert Orchid and One Man, making all the running under Graham Bradley in the Edward Hanmer Chase.

It was his first start since being beaten 25 lengths by Lord Gyllene in the Martell Grand National back in April. In the peculiar circumstances, his connections had felt some obligation to let him run that day — but the key to Suny Bay is ground rather softer than prevailed at Aintree when the race eventually took place.

Even the limited exposure that various training problems have permitted him — this was his eighth win from just 14 starts — had shown that Suny Bay goes well fresh, anyway, and the yielding Haydock turf allowed him to dominate a high-class field from start to finish. One by one, some of the best staying handicap chasers around had their resistance broken by his bold jumping and relentless gallop. See More Business all but ignored the sixth from home, while Eudipe and Unguided Missile cracked after the final ditch. General Wolfe laboured onward to take second, beaten 11 lengths, with See More Business regrouping to creditable effect another seven lengths away. The rest were well beaten.

"He's up there with some of those good horses I rode years ago," Bradley said. "Horses like Bregawn and Wayward Lad. He's an ideal type for the Hennessy Gold Cup — he jumps, stays and gallops. He jumped from fence to fence, kept quickening up. Horses by his sire, Roselier, get better with age, and he is improving all the time. The sky's the limit."

Bradley had only been restored to the ride as a result of the wrist injury sustained by Jamie Osborne at Cheltenham on Sunday, having been replaced last season when Andrew Cohen — the horse's owner and principal patron of his trainer, Charlie Brooks — decided that he was not lucky for him. Cohen, too exultant yesterday to feel sheepish about his behaviour then, obviously feels his luck has changed.

He said: "Where he goes depends on the ground. He could go for the Hennessy, or the Rehearsal Chase the following weekend, and then the Welsh National."

Brooks himself suggested that Newbury was very much in mind. "This is the route we took with Couldnt Be Better when he won two years ago," he said. "One of the reasons we ran at Haydock, rather than at Aintree on Saturday, is that — if things went right — it would give us an extra three days. I thought him much improved this year, by the way he has been working, and was unusually confident today for a normally pessimistic trainer."

Those infected by his optimism must find the Tote's offer of 9-2 favourite for the Hennessy interesting. The Tote also has Suny Bay at 16-1 for the National, and as low as 12-1 for the Gold Cup, while Coral offer 12-1 for Aintree, and 20-1 for Cheltenham.

Peintre Celebre wins top award

PEINTRE CELEBRE, the outstanding winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp in October, was named as the Cartier Horse of the Year at a gala dinner in London last night (Richard Evans writes).

The Cartier racing awards are now in their seventh year and the special award of merit was presented to Peter O'Sullevan, who retires as the BBC television's racing commentator after the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday week.

Celeric, whom Pat Eddery partnered to capture the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, was voted stayer of the year and the award was received by Christopher Spence, his owner-breeder.

CARTIER AWARDS: **Peintre Celebre** (Horse Of the Year), **Embassy** (2-Y-O filly), **Xaar** (2-Y-O colt), **Ryafan** (3-Y-O filly), **Peintre Celebre** (3-Y-0 colt), **Celeric** (stayer), **Royal Applause** (sprinter), **Pilsudski** (older horse).

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

1.20 Eishken
1.50 Mrs Em
2.20 COOL GUNNER (nap)
2.50 Bear Claw
3.20 Nasone
3.50 He Knows The Rules

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 DISTANT STORM.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 GREAT WESTERN NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,727: 2m 6f) (14 runners)

1 04/23-1 RELATIVE CHANCE 11 (D,G) (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 8-11-5 A P McCoy 98
2 32-21 ROYAL ACTION 16 (F) (B Harris) O Sherwood 4-11-5 J A McCarthy 82
3 5 EISHKEN 12 (P Pottinger) M Bradstock 5-11-0 A Thornton 109
4 0P-0 FIVE BOYS 7 (Mrs S Maltby) R Hodges 5-11-0 B Powell –
5 666-2 HOMME DE FER 34 (Miss M Vencatagadoo) K Bailey 5-11-0 N Williamson 110
6 32/2-4 KINGSLAND TAVERNER 29 (R Norfall) O Sherwood 6-11-0 C Honour (7) –
7 3 LIFE'S WORK 26 (Four Double-U's) P Hobbs 5-11-0 G Tormey 90
8 10/0/0- LINE OF CONQUEST 385 (S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 7-11-0 T J Murphy –
9 00/40P- MISTER GENEROSITY 258 (C Weedon) C Weedon 6-11-0 D O'Sullivan –
10 3243-P ROYAL POT BLACK 15 (A Loze) P Hobbs 6-11-0 R Dunwoody –
11 /233-F2 RUM CUSTOMER 21 (Mrs D Nicholson) C Barwell 6-11-0 B Fenton 99
12 P1-6 TAKE MY SIDE 41 (S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 5-11-0 P Hide 107
13 0U0/ RAMSBURY RIDGE 611 (L Snook) L Snook 5-10-9 L Cummins (5) –
14 1-22623 SEA TARTH 68 (G) (F Luff) P Bowen 6-10-9 R Johnson 84

BETTING: 2-1 Royal Action, 9-2 Relative Chance, 6-1 Homme De Fer, 7-1 Life's Work, 10-1 Rum Customer, 12-1 Eishken, Kingsland Taverner, Royal Pot Black, 14-1 others

1996: KILMINGTON 7-11-0 P Hide (11-2) J Gifford 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Relative Chance beat Jet Boys 4l in 12-runner novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Royal Action beat Mazamet 18l in 3-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to firm). Eishken 12l 5th of 9 to Noisy Miner in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Five Boys 26l 8th of 14 to Two To Tango in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Homme De Fer 1¾l 2nd of 10 to Brownes Hill Lad in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Kingsland Taverner beaten a distance 4th of 10 to River Challenge in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, good) with Rum Customer (levels) left. Life's Work 1½l 3rd of 6 to Rowington in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm). Line Of Conquest 20l 9th of 16 to Not For Turning in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). Royal Pot Black pulled up in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 3f, good to firm), previously 19l 3rd of 14 to Gatflax in NH flat race at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Rum Customer 11l 2nd of 11 to Danger Flynn in maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Take My Side 29l 6th of 18 to Gatflax in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Ramsbury Ridge beaten a distance 7th of 11 to Madame President in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, firm). Sea Tarth 25l 3rd of 11 to Chris's Lad in maiden hurdle at Worcester (3m, good).

RELATIVE CHANCE, one of the few certain to stay this trip, can win again

1.50 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES CHASE

(£3,357: 2m) (5 runners)

1 PPU- CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (H Cole) H Cole 6-10-12 Mr J Tizzard (5) –
2 542PP-P KONGIES MELODY 6 (B) (K Dare) C Popham 6-10-12 S Burrough –
3 61421-P MAID FOR ADVENTURE 16 (F,G) (C Brasher) Miss H Knight 6-10-12 B Fenton –
4 1112-25 MRS EM 19 (BF,D,F) (G Mizel) P Nicholls 5-10-12 T J Murphy –
5 525-3P3 STRATTON FLYER 11 (S Howe) H Howe 7-10-12 B Powell 80

BETTING: 4-5 Mrs Em, 6-4 Maid For Adventure, 10-1 Stratton Flyer, 25-1 Kongies Melody, 33-1 Camillas Legacy

1996: KOO'S PROMISE 5-10-12 T Dascombe (8-1) C Popham 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Camillas Legacy 36l 7th of 14 to Colonel Blazer in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Maid For Adventure pulled up in novice chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Regal Gem ¾l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Mrs Em 19l 5th of 6 to Nahcawah in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Stratton Flyer beaten a distance 3rd of 6 to Trail Boss in novice chase at Sandown (2m, good to firm).

MRS EM, a useful hurdler, can make a winning debut over fences

2.20 TOTE BETTING SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,415: 2m) (4 runners)

1 3362-06 PRIZEFIGHTER 8 (D,F) (J Milton) B Llewellyn 6-12-0 Mr J L Llewellyn 86
2 30121-0 SEATTLE ALLEY 40 (D,F,G) (L & P Partnership) P R Webber 4-11-11 J A McCarthy 107
3 3/01P1- COLONEL BLAZER 204 (D,F,G,S) (T Biddlecombe) Miss H Knight 5-10-13 J F Titley 100
4 1U4110- COOL GUNNER 216 (F,S) (R Peterson) J King 7-10-13 A P McCoy 88

BETTING: 7-4 Seattle Alley, 2-1 Colonel Blazer, 7-2 Cool Gunner, 5-1 Prizefighter

1996: MORSTOCK 6-10-10 T Dascombe (3-1) R Hodges 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Prizefighter 37l 6th of 7 to Miss Roberto in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good). Seattle Alley 26l 8th of 9 to Flat Top in hurdle at Morvern Park (2m 2f, good), previously beat Fairly Sharp short head in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Colonel Blazer beat Blowing Rock 6l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good to firm). Cool Gunner 26l 9th of 18 to Mahler in novice handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good) with Colonel Blazer (2lb better off) pulled up.

SEATTLE ALLEY, well treated on last season's form, looks sure to go close

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.50 HAMILTON LITESTAT HANDICAP CHASE

(£7,035. 3m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 /442P2- SUNLEY BAY 245 (BF,CD,G,S) (Mrs M Barber) P Nicholls 11-12-0 T J Murphy 103
2 4-11131 DANGER BABY 11 (B,F,G,S) (Shark Racing) P Bowen 7-11-10 A P McCoy 131
3 4/F1U3- BEAR CLAW 216 (B,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 8-11-8 R Johnson 106
4 11/16-U ANDRE LAVAL 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Wright) K Bailey 8-11-4 N Williamson 100
5 1PF2UP/ FALMOUTH BAY 582 (G,S) (J Morton) O Sherwood 8-11-3 J A McCarthy –
6 F14351/ BRAVE HIGHLANDER 943 (G,S) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 9-11-0 P Hide –
7 01UU3-5 FULL OF BOUNCE 12 (C,S) (Fieldspring Racing) R Hodges 6-10-8 R Dunwoody 104
8 /PF1F/U SAN FERNANDO 15 (C,G,S) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 11-10-0 L Aspell (5) –

Long handicap: San Fernando 9-13.

BETTING: 5-2 Danger Baby, 7-2 Bear Claw, 9-2 Andre Laval, 5-1 Sunley Bay, 10-1 Full Of Bounce, 12-1 Falmouth Bay, Brave Highlander, San Fernando.

1996: ANDRE LAVAL 7-10-11 C O'Dwyer (9-4) K Bailey 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Sunley Bay 4l 2nd of 3 to Fools Errand in amateurs handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). Danger Baby beat Grey Smoke 1½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to firm). Bear Claw 6½l 3rd of 9 to Chopwell Curtains in novice chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good). Andre Laval unseated rider in amateurs handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good), previously 10l 6th of 11 to Ballyea Boy in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft). Brave Highlander beat Master Boston ½l in 7-runner novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Full Of Bounce 16l 5th of 10 to Scoresheet in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good); previously 9½l 3rd of 8 to Kenmore-Speed in novice handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). San Fernando unseated rider in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good to firm).

BEAR CLAW, lightly raced over fences, is open to plenty of improvement

3.20 TOTE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,571: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1 /42500- NASONE 216 (S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 6-11-12 P Hide –
2 53/30-1 NESCAF 22 (F,G) (T Clowes) R Rowe 7-11-1 D O'Sullivan 88
3 141-U30 MR STRONG GALE 12 (B,F,G) (T Chappell) P Nicholls 6-11-0 T J Murphy 75
4 003-0 MAN OF THE MATCH 11 (Mrs E Pearce) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 G Upton –
5 1151/08 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 7 (S) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 6-10-12 R Dunwoody –
6 3P/P2-3 PHILATELIC 12 (P De Wilde) R Alner 6-10-11 A Thornton 97
7 10/P4- GRANHAM PRIDE 211 (S) (I M S Racing) K Bailey 7-10-9 N Williamson –
8 0P2/ GRASS ISLAND 918 (B & M McHugh Ltd Civil Eng) T Casey 8-10-0 R Johnson –
9 0P/3P- THE HERBIVORE 350 (M Roberts) M J Roberts 8-10-0 P Henley (3) –

Long handicap: The Herbivore 8-11

BETTING: 3-1 Nasone, 4-1 Nescaf, 5-1 Mr Strong Gale, 11-2 Philatelic, 13-2 Granham Pride, 8-1 Man Of The Match, 12-1 Hightown Cavalier, Grass Island, 33-1 The Herbivore.

1996: HIGHLAND JACK 6-10-10 R Dunwoody (6-1) A Turnell 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Nasone beaten a distance 13th of 18 to Mahler in novice handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good), previously 49l 13th of 17 to Istabraq in grade I novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Nescaf beat Black Statement 27l in 6-runner novice handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good). Man Of The Match 42l 8th of 12 to Relative Chance in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Hightown Cavalier 15l 6th of 11 to Ekeus in novice handicap chs at Taunton (2m 3f, good). Philatelic 6l 3rd of 12 to Aller Moor in novice handicap chs at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good) with Mr Strong Gale (3lb better off) 55l 7th. Granham Pride 19l 4th of 11 to Royal York in maiden hurdle at Perth (2m 4f 110yd, good). Grass Island 3l 2nd of 12 to Oh So Bright in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). The Herbivore pulled up in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to firm), previously 19l 3rd of 5 to Blasket Hero in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to firm).

PHILATELIC failed to stay three miles here last time and looks well treated

3.50 BATCOMBE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,248: 2m) (9 runners)

1 -511310 HE KNOWS THE RULES 19 (G) (Hoodwinkers) R Buckler 5-11-10 G Supple (5) 82
2 P-02442 PERSIAN BUTTERFLY 21 (D,G) (Miss K A Asteri) R Stronge 5-10-8 A P McCoy 88
3 435PP11 DISTANT STORM 15 (B,D,G) (D Driscoll) B Llewellyn 4-10-7 B Powell 102
4 34-P225 MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE 13 (BF,F) (P Slade) R Hodges 6-10-1 R Dunwoody 88
5 4054-10 SAAFI 17 (B,G) (H Davies) R Baker 6-10-0 V Slattery 71
6 08-P0SP INDIAN CROWN 16 (B) (P Buckley) N Thomson 7-10-0 D Morris 66
7 00/00P- ACHILL PRINCE 234 (R Bimson) N Ayliffe 6-10-0 M Griffiths (7) –
8 /PPPP-3 QUEEN OF THE SUIR 16 (R Scorgie) N Mitchell 8-10-0 Sophie Mitchell (5) –
9 6/P0 DICKYVEARNCOMBE 16 (G Dackhaven Stud) A Barrow 5-10-0 L Cummins (5) –

Long handicap: Saafi 9-10, Indian Crown 9-5, Achill Prince 9-2, Queen Of The Suir 8-9, Dickyvearncombe 8-9.

BETTING: 15-8 Distant Storm, 7-2 He Knows The Rules, Moonlight Escapade, 11-2 Persian Butterfly, 10-1 Saafi, 16-1 Indian Crown, 25-1 Achill Prince, 33-1 others

1996: WAYFARERS WAY 5-11-10 M A Fitzgerald (4-1) N Henderson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS He Knows The Rules 42l 9th of 10 to Supreme Charm in novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good); previously beat Handson 4l in 7-runner handicap hurdle 0-125 at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good). Persian Butterfly neck 2nd of 14 to Fijon in selling hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good). Distant Storm beat Soldier Mak 2½l in 11-runner conditional jockeys novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) with Moonlight Escapade (6lb better off) 21l 5th. Saafi 43l last of 7 to Native Shore in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm), previously beat Maggie Stuart 2l in 12-runner selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). Achill Prince pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, firm), previously 41l 13th of 17 to Storm Tiger in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Queen Of The Suir beaten a distance 3rd of 6 to The Brewer in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to soft). Dickyvearncombe 67l 8th of 11 to King Of The Dawn in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good) with Indian Crown (5lb worse off) pulled up

DISTANT STORM can defy a 6lb rise in the weights for his Uttoxeter win

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	12	37	32.4	L Cummins	5	8	62.5
P Bowen	3	13	23.1	R Dunwoody	31	124	25.0
Mrs J Pitman	15	65	23.1	R Johnson	6	24	25.0
Miss H Knight	7	31	22.6	P Hide	9	43	20.9
J Gifford	16	78	20.5	A P McCoy	16	88	18.2
K Bailey	12	59	20.3	T J Murphy	3	17	17.6
P Nicholls	26	135	19.3	A Thornton	6	40	15.0
J King	7	41	17.1	N Williamson	7	62	11.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sedgefield: 2.10 Old Ale, Dawn Mission 3.10 Galen, Sky Runner Warwick: 3.30 Oakmont. Wincanton: 1.50 Kongies Melody.

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RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Eishken
(1.20 Wincanton)

The well-regarded Eishken was far from disgraced recently on his debut in a decent race at Chepstow and will be a value proposition against some better-fancied rivals in the opener at Wincanton.

Next best: Run For Dante
(2.00 Warwick).

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Going: good

1.10 (2m hdle) 1, Hill Farm Blues (D Bridgwater, 16-1); 2, Kathryn's Pet (7-2); 3, I'm Maggy (20-1). Potter Again 10-11 fav. 14 ran. 1½l, ½l. W Brisbourne. Tote: £13.40; £4.30, £1.50, £2.80. DF: £59.60. CSF: £70.63. Trio: £373.40.

1.40 (2m hdle) 1, Saint Ciel (A Maguire, evens fav); 2, Miss Roberto (100-30); 3, Mithraic (5-1). 5 ran. 12l, 14l. F Jordan. Tote: £1.80; £1.60, £1.30. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.57.

2.10 (3m ch) 1, Suny Bay (G Bradley, 100-30); 2, General Wolfe (10-1); 3, See More Business (13-2). Eudipe 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 11l, 7l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.90; £2.20, £2.30, £2.30. DF: £21.40. Trio: £77.60. CSF: £33.61. Tricast: £195.36.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Thrower (C Maude, 9-4); 2, Bell Staffboy (12-1); 3, No More Hassle (2-1 fav). 6 ran. 7l, nk. S Brookshaw. Tote: £3.30; £1.60, £4.10. DF: £22.10. CSF: £24.19.

3.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, Pongo Waring (A Maguire, 15-8 fav); 2, Rustic Air (7-2); 3, Wayuphill (5-2). 6 ran. 3l, 1l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £1.90. DF: £6.10. CSF: £8.58.

3.40 (2m 7f 110yd hdle) 1, Campaign (R Garritty, 9-1); 2, Charley Lambert (11-2); 3, Dockmaster (14-1). Indicator 6-4 fav. 8 ran. 6l, 1l. M Hammond. Tote: £11.20; £2.10, £2.10, £1.90. DF: £37.40. CSF: £55.41. Tricast: £641.62.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £31,731.82 carried forward to Warwick today).

Placepot: £545.10. Quadpot: £75.90.

Kempton Park

Going: good to soft

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Sadler's Realm (E Callaghan, 11-2); 2, Asa International (100-30); 3, Inchydoney Boy (25-1). Hoh Warrior Bay 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 27l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £1.40, £6.10. DF: £6.00. CSF: £23.31. Tricast: £330.81.

1.50 (2m ch) 1, Kadastrof (N Williamson, 10-11 fav); 2, Kingsley's Pet (6-1); 3, Nordansk (6-1). 6 ran. 23l, 29l. R Dickin. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £3.50. DF: £4.70. CSF: £6.44.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Clinton (N Williamson, 5-2); 2, Mountain Storm (9-4 fav); 3, Midas (5-2). 7 ran. 3l, 27l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.80. DF: £4.20. CSF: £8.13.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Super Tactics (A Thornton, 7-2); 2, Gaernino (10-1); 3, Ar Prince (3-1). Big Matt 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 11l, hd. R Alner. Tote: £4.50; £1.40, £2.70. DF: £20.20. CSF: £27.55.

3.20 (3m ch) 1, Menesonic (A Thornton, 5-4 fav); 2, Fair Society (7-2); 3, Act Of Faith (7-4). 6 ran. Dist, dist. R Alner. Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £3.00. DF: £4.80. CSF: £12.46.

3.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Friendship (M A Fitzgerald, 3-1 fav); 2, Grooving (9-2); 3, Fired Earth (9-2). 8 ran. 12l, nk. N Henderson. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £5.70. CSF: £15.26. Tricast: £52.53.

Placepot: £63.90. Quadpot: £16.10.

Hereford

Going: good to soft

1.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Vent D'Aout (R Johnson, 10-11 fav); 2, Prairie Minstrel (11-2); 3, Fletcher (10-1). 12 ran. 23l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £3.50. Trio: £9.60. CSF: £6.38.

1.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, Seahawk Retriever (Mr J Tizzard, 3-1 fav); 2, Jason's Boy (7-2); 3, Northern Optimist (20-1). 8 ran. 4l, dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.20, £2.70. DF: £10.80. CSF: £12.01. Tricast: £141.96.

2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Gutteridge (G Tormey, 9-2); 2, South West Express (5-1); 3, Thomas Crown (8-1). Galloping Guns 4-1 fav. 12 ran. 29l, 2l. P Evans. Tote: £5.90; £3.30, £2.00, £2.80. DF: £92.80. CSF: £29.33. Tricast: £171.23. Trio: £196.00.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, Play Games (G Hogan, 25-1); 2, Sherwood Boy (5-1); 3, Astral Invasion (33-1). High Mood 3-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Kumari King, Pooh Stick, Verde Luna. 1¼l, ½l. P Lee. Tote: £63.20; £6.40, £1.70, £2.90. DF: £120.40. Trio: £556.50. CSF: £116.40. Tricast: £3,366.56.

3.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Welsh Silk (C Llewellyn, 11-10 fav); 2, Kennet Square (33-1); 3, Don't Tell Tom (8-1). 10 ran. NR: Shannon Lad. 7l, 11l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £11.60, £1.60. DF: £73.40. Trio: £37.00. CSF: £39.39. Tricast: £190.28.

3.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Mystic Isle (J R Kavanagh, 100-30); 2, Scotby (9-4 fav); 3, Ideal Partner (10-1). 9 ran. 28l, dist. N Gaselee. Tote: £4.50; £1.30, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £5.60. Trio: £20.80. CSF: £10.56.

4.00 (2m 1f flat) 1, Latin Mistress (L Cummins, 7-1); 2, Lance's Counsel (14-1); 3, Cool Spring (14-1). Daisy 7-4 fav. 16 ran. NR: Threads. 8l, 1½l. P Nicholls. Tote: £7.10; £1.40, £3.20, £12.80. DF: £57.30. CSF: £102.36. Trio: £318.20.

Placepot: £110.00. Quadpot: £33.40.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

12.55 Edward Seymour. 1.30 Coolteen Hero. 2.00 Handy Lass. 2.30 Millersford. 3.00 Little Martina. 3.30 Bold Buster.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.55 HARBURY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,639. 2m 3f) (15 runners)

101 3/5/ CHARLAFRIVOLA 824 (D,F) T Greathead 9-11-10 L Suthern (7) –
102 5113 FIJON 16 (G) J Allen 4-11-7 X Aizpuru (5) 90
103 1-6P TEL E THON 7 (V,F,G) Miss C Caroe 10-11-5 D Leahy 71
104 /340 REACH FOR GLORY 7 (F,G) G Richards 6-11-4 Mr S Blackwell 80
105 2254 FRONTIER FLIGHT 13 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-11-4 O Pears 101
106 0402 EDWARD SEYMOUR 42 (F,S) W Jenks 10-11-1 T Jenks 70
107 064- VISCOUNT TULLY 204 (S) C Jackson 12-10-6 R Thornton (3) –
108 4-04 SIR PAGEANT 6 (B,CD,S) K Endgmacer 8-10-6 D Bridgwater 68
109 10R- KENTAVRUS WAY 255 (S) B De Haan 5-10-5 C Llewellyn 77
110 F435 ROYAL HAND 13 (V) R Armson 7-10-4 Mr R Armson 75
111 2464 JOHN TUFTY 21 (G) J Pearce 6-10-4 A Maguire 103
112 P-06 CAPTAIN CHROME 9 (D,F) K Bridgwater 10-10-0 T Mortimer (7) –
113 505/ CHEVELEY DANCER 470F (S) S Dow 9-10-0 D Gallagher –
114 06-0 WESTCOAST 16 M Tate 6-10-0 Mr H Oliver 70
115 5P-0 WOODLANDS LAD TOO 21 P Pritchard 5-10-0 R Bellamy 66

4-1 Frontier Flight, 9-2 John Tufty, 5-1 Fijon, Edward Seymour, 10-1 others

1.30 ETHELFLEDAS MOUNT HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,745 2m) (3)

201 221- SUBLIME FELLOW 193 (D,F) N Henderson 7-12-0 M A Fitzgerald 130
202 5111 GREEN GREEN DESERT 9 (D,F,G) O Sherwood 6-11-12 (5ex) A Maguire 96
203 -112 COOLTEEN HERO 20 (D,F,G,S) R Alner 7-11-3 P Holley 124

4-5 Green Green Desert, 7-4 Sublime Fellow, 11-2 Coolteen Hero

2.00 EMMA PHIPPS FIRST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,010 2m 3f) (5)

301 011- SPECIAL BEAT 190 (D,G,S) N Henderson 5-12-0 Mr C Vigors (5) 98
302 225- HANDY LASS 197 (D,F,S) J Smith 8-10-12 Mr O McPhail (7) 107
303 20/2 RUN FOR DANTE 22 (F) G Hubbard 7-10-10 A Maguire 81
304 -512 APACHE PARK 127 (G,S) A Streeter 4-10-5 T Eley 90
305 35U- BRIDEPARK ROSE 183 (D,S) M Muggeridge 9-10-2 M Ahern –

11-10 Special Beat, 3-1 Run For Dante, 9-2 Apache Park, 6-1 Handy Lass, 14-1 Bridepark Rose

2.30 VARLEY HIBBS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,782: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

401 21-U BOURBON COUNTY 15 (G) Miss S Wilton 7-10-12 T Eley –
402 P-1- DAWN INVADER 263P (D,S) D Caro 6-10-12 D Leahy –
403 2-16 GRATOMI 12 (D,F,G) P Ritchens 7-10-12 C Maude –
404 1-FP MANASIS 12 (D,G) S Brookshaw 6-10-12 S Wynne –
405 552- MILLERSFORD 258 (G) N Gaselee 6-10-12 W Marston –
406 20-5 OPERETTO 15 Mrs S Nock 7-10-12 J R Kavanagh –
407 -102 ROSSELL ISLAND 9 (G) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-12 R Farrant –
408 40-4 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 16 (F) N T-Davies 7-10-12 C Llewellyn 97
409 F-02 ZAITOON 8 (B,BF,F,G) D Nicholson 5-10-12 A Maguire 95
410 /0P- ARTISTIC PLAN 244 R Alner 5-10-11 P Holley –
411 215- HERHORSE 194 (S) Mrs A H-Chappell 10-10-11 Mr L Jefford 100
412 3- KNOCKANARD 207P Mrs L Taylor 5-10-11 R Bellamy –
413 0/0- KNOCKBRIT LADY 303 A Foster 6-10-7 B Clifford –

9-4 Zaitoon, 7-2 Rossell Island, 5-1 Millersford, Speedwell Prince, 10-1 Gratomi, 14-1 Manasis, 16-1 Operetto, 20-1 others

3.00 SHIPSTON HANDICAP CHASE

(£6,613 3m 2f) (4)

501 03-3 BARONET 12 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-11 R Thornton (3) 108
502 P2-2 HATCHAM BOY 21 (G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-2 A Maguire 140
503 21-F GOD SPEED YOU 19 (B,D,F,G) C Morlock 8-10-13 J R Kavanagh 106
504 21-4 LITTLE MARTINA 14 (D,F,S) D Grissell 9-10-11 M A Fitzgerald 107

7-4 Baronet, 5-2 Hatcham Boy, 7-2 God Speed You, Little Martina

3.30 ASHORNE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2 749. 2m) (22)

601 00-6 ALTHREY PILOT 12 R Peacock 6-10-12 S McNeill 75
602 P- BOLD BUSTER 17F I Balding 4-10-12 G Bradley –
603 0 COASTGUARDS HERO 45 M Usher 4-10-12 W McFarland 35
604 0 EAGLE CANYON 96 F Jordan 4-10-12 D Byrne 43
605 58 ELA-YIE-MOU 19 S Dow 4-10-12 D Gallagher 93
606 EL CID P Ritchens 7-10-12 C Maude –
607 4P-3 GINGER FOX 19 (BF) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-12 R Farrant 120
608 4F/ GRATE BRITISH 684 J Allen 5-10-12 Gary Lyons –
609 HALMANERROR 37F G McCourt 7-10-12 D Bridgwater –
610 0F-4 HIGHTECH TOUCH 29 L Grassick 7-10-12 W Marston 68
611 15/F KATIE'S JOKER 11 (G) O O'Neill 11-10-12 G Hogan (3) –
612 LIATHACH 78F D Thom 6-10-12 J R Kavanagh –
613 423- MUSIC PLEASE 199 Miss V Williams 5-10-12 R Thornton (3) 102
614 050P OAKMONT 16 (B) M Sheppard 4-10-12 S Curran 85
615 QUITE LIVELY K Bailey 5-10-12 Mr R Wakley (5) –
616 P- STELLAR LINE 24F M Polglase 4-10-12 C Llewellyn –
617 0-2 THE KERRY LEDGEND 28 N Chance 4-10-12 M A Fitzgerald –
618 32-2 TONKA 10 D Gandolfo 5-10-12 A Maguire 105
619 VELVET JONES 44F G Charles-Jones 4-10-12 Mr A Charles-Jones –
620 04-P CAPSOFF 12 G Hubbard 4-10-7 S Wynne –
621 P00 DAUGHTER IN LAW 7 Miss C Caroe 4-10-7 D Leahy –
622 0F-P SISSINGHURST FLYER 14 R Dickin 5-10-7 X Aizpuru (5) –

9-4 Ginger Fox, 5-1 Tonka, 6-1 Bold Buster, 8-1 Music Please, 10-1 Quite Lively, 12-1 Halmanerror, The Kerry Ledgend, Capsoff, 20-1 others.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

1.10 Strong John. 1.40 Chorus Line. 2.10 Tribune. 2.40 D'Arblay Street. 3.10 Galen. 3.40 Stylish Interval.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.10 JOHN WADE HINO TRUCK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER

(£1,842: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

1 31-3 STRONG JOHN 11 (CD,F,G) M Sowersby 9-12-0 D Parker
2 2F-5 BAHER 11 S Clark 8-12-0 Miss R Clark (5)
3 2144 NONIOS 13 (F) G M Moore 6-11-9 T Hogg (7)
4 03-2 CRAIGARY 38F (BF) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-1 J Supple
5 0/0- MY HANDY MAN 351 D Baker 6-10-3 D Bentley

7-4 Craigary, 2-1 Nonios, 11-4 Strong John, 10-1 Baher, 16-1 My Handy Man

1.40 BOWDEN ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,785. 2m 110yd) (8)

1 33-1 VAL DE RAMA 9 (CD,F,G) D Smith 6-12-6 (7ex) P Niven
2 1UU- CHORUS LINE 199 (D,F,S) P Beaumont 8-12-5 S Grattan (5)
3 P62- THE BIRD O'DONNELL 293 (D,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 11-11-0 J Supple
4 -0U4 GONE ASHORE 8 (D,F) M Barnes 6-10-5 S Taylor (5)
5 0234 XAIPETE 13 (F) N Mason 5-10-7 R Guest
6 3SP0 WILD BROOK 13 (BF) B Ellison 7-10-7 A Dobbin
7 32P4 CARDENDEN 4 (D,F,G) J Barclay 9-10-7 C McCormack (7)
8 F-64 CIRCULATION 9 (CD,F,G,S) D McCain 11-10-6 B Storey

11-4 Chorus Line, 7-2 Val de Rama, 9-2 The Bird O'Donnell, 5-1 Circulation, 11-2 Xaipete, 7-1 Cardenden, 10-1 Gone Ashore, Wild Brook

2.10 W A STEPHENSON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE

(£5,686. 2m 5f) (10)

1 P-21 LIFEBUOY 10 (F,G) J Turner 6-11-4 R Supple
2 0/1 TITAN THAI 41 (F) N Mason 8-11-4 R Guest
3 00-3 ADAMATIC 33 (BF,F,G) R Allan 6-10-12 B Storey
4 /PF/ BUSTER BEN 775 J Barclay 8-10-12 C McCormack (7)
5 413- HARFDECENT 216 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12 P Niven
6 P05/ OLD ALE 635 (B,F) J Curtis 7-10-12 J Callaghan
7 114- TRIBUNE 216 (D,F,G,S) C Thornton 6-10-12 M Foster
8 30-5 DANBYS GORSE 14 (S) J Jefferson 5-10-11 E Callaghan (3)
9 0-25 DAWN MISSION 11 (B,BF F) T Easterby 5-10-11 R Garritty
10 1124 EDEN DANCER 17 (F,G) J Howard Johnson 5-10-11 A Dobbin

5-2 Tribune, 4-1 Harfdecent, 6-1 Titan Thai, Lifebuoy, Adamatic, 9-1 others

2.40 COLIN MACANDREW MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

(Amateurs £2,746. 3m 3f) (8)

1 P05- WUDIMP 197 (F,G,S) Mrs J Storey 8-12-7 C Storey (5)
2 54UP DARK OAK 7 (C,F,G,S) J Curtis 11-12-6 S Swiers
3 -122 ETERNAL CITY 10 (F,G) G Richards 6-11-11 M Bradburne (7)
4 6033 D'ARBLAY STREET 9 (B,D,G,S) W Kemp 8-11-5 S Durack (7)
5 -U36 CUMBERLAND BLUES 48 (F,G) A J Lockwood 6-11-5 Miss A Deniel (7)
6 -53U OLE OLE 21 (V,C,F,S) Mrs E Moscrop 11-11-2 A Parker (7)
7 -P53 SHULTAN 9 (F,G) J Wade 8-10-7 J Crowley (7)
8 5/45 HICKSONS CHOICE 40 J Wade 9-10-7 Miss P Robson (5)

10-11 Eternal City, 3-1 D'Arblay Street, 6-1 Dark Oak, Cumberland Blues, 10-1 Ole Ole, 20-1 Wudimp, 33-1 Shultan, 50-1 Hicksons Choice

3.10 REGAL SUNDERLAND STADIUM NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,285 3m 3f 110yd) (12)

1 0/P0 BLAKENEY BOY 9 D Lamb 7-10-10 J Burke
2 3-25 GALEN 26 (B,BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-10 P Niven
3 634- IRISH WILDCARD 345 J Howard Johnson 9-10-10 D Parker
4 04-P KATOUCHE 11 S Clark 6-10-10 Miss R Clark (5)
5 P-00 SKY RUNNER 48 (V,F) M Mulhearn 6-10-10 W Dwan
6 SLASHER JACK 14F R Fahey 6-10-10 J Callaghan
7 40/6 WILLERFOSS 11 (B) B Rothwell 7-10-10 R Supple
8 F-0 BADGER HILL 36 Miss S Williamson 4-10-9 J Supple
9 0 COIS NA FARRAIGE 11 M Sowersby 4-10-9 C McCormack (7)
10 3-P4 KRALINGEN 9 N Chamberlain 5-10-5 B Storey
11 04-4 LOSTRIS 20 G Richards 6-10-5 A Dobbin
12 0-04 GAUTBY HENPECKED 13 G M Moore 4-10-4 N Bentley

2-1 Slasher Jack, 5-2 Galen, 3-1 Lostris, 11-2 Irish Wildcard, 8-1 others

3.40 SEDGEFIELD PADDOCK BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,355: 2m 1f) (8)

1 30-0 GLENUGIE 160 (CD,F,G) G M Moore 6-12-0 N Bentley
2 P-4F RUSSIAN RASCAL 20 (G,S) T Easterby 4-11-11 R Garritty
3 P142 BURES 17 (CD,F,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-7 E Callaghan (3)
4 1222 PENTLAND SQUIRE 17 (BF,D,F) J Jefferson 6-11-4 A K Smith (7)
5 31-3 STYLISH INTERVAL 21 (BF,CD,F) D Smith 5-11-0 P Niven
6 16/0 GENERAL'S ORDERS 15 (CD,F,S) J Turner 6-10-8 R Supple
7 2-55 KIERCHEM 13 (G,S) C Grant 6-10-2 A Dobbin
8 4506 RUBISLAW 13 (V) Mrs K Lamb 5-10-0 Miss S Lamb (7)

9-4 Russian Rascal, 3-1 Stylish Interval, 9-2 Pentland Squire, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

SEDGEFIELD: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 71 winners from 258 runners, 27.5%; C Thornton, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Jefferson, 8 from 36, 22.2%; T Easterby, 5 from 23, 21.7%; P Beaumont, 18 from 88, 20.5%. Jockeys: P Niven, 58 winners from 193 rides, 30.1%; C McCormack, 8 from 32, 25.0%; E Callaghan, 8 from 42, 19.0%; J Supple, 13 from 76, 17.1%; J Callaghan, 14 from 104, 13.5%.

WARWICK: Trainers: N Chance, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; S Brookshaw, 3 from 9, 33.3%; N Gaselee, 10 from 40, 25.0%; R Alner, 5 from 22, 22.7%; D Nicholson, 25 from 110, 22.7%. Jockeys: A Maguire, 20 winners from 88 rides, 22.7%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 41, 19.5%; J Kavanagh, 8 from 49, 16.3%; T Jenks, 5 from 34, 14.7%; G Bradley, 8 from 56, 14.3%.

هكذا من الاصل

Storm clouds cast shadow over Southampton

Mellor: questions

IN FOOTBALL'S new world, where investing requires the finesse and timing of a Gianfranco Zola chip, the visit by Southampton to Chelsea yesterday brought an intriguing boardroom meeting.

On one hand there was Ken Bates, under whose dogmatic chairmanship Stamford Bridge has grown from ruin to renovation. On the other was Rupert Lowe, the newest of FA Carling Premiership chairman, whose takeover at Southampton invites controversy. Specifically, David Mellor, head of the Government's Task Force on Football, condemns Lowe for getting into Southampton "on the cheap", yet admires Bates for buying Chelsea ostensibly for £1 but, over 15 years, converting club debts into an economic force that, were Bates to sell tomorrow, would net him more than £45 million.

Mellor, of course, is a committed Chelsea fan, but his absence last night, because of a speaking engagement, upset Lowe. The Southampton chairman was keen to confront Mellor over the campaign, which he is advised includes libel on Mellor's part, to disparage him.

Bates and Lowe hail from different sides of the track. The Old Rascal Bates, a lorry driver's son besotted by football, drove himself up from gravel to a position where politicians grovel for a seat in his state-of-the-art domain. He fought off land predators, delayed creditors and, through sheer bloody-mindedness, lifted his club into the Big Five. Lowe admits he started with a silver spoon. A good sport at prep and public school in Oxford, a hockey blue, he gave up stocks and shares for the chance to put his future in football.

Rob Hughes unravels an ugly dispute at The Dell that threatens to end in court

Bates, the maverick, a gleam in his eye, no doubt chuckled at the way Lowe introduced himself to Southampton's players — by organising a clay pigeon shoot. "We're in this together, guys," Lowe told them. "The bookies have us down already, but I don't like losing. Its about belief. I have faith in you keeping us up and I'm doing what I can to get together the finances to relocate this club — without which none of us will survive in the Premiership."

It was the timing of Lowe's approach to Southampton — just as a local planning authority stipulated a deadline by which financial guarantees had to be met before it approved a proposed £50 million sports complex — that won the deal. However, Mellor is disdainful of Lowe's former position, running a retirement homes company with a turnover of £1.7 million, and, during his programme on Radio 5 Live, accused Southampton directors of selling to Lowe rather than accept a bigger-backed City consortium "presumably because they'd been so heavily incentivised by Mr Lowe".

That, Lowe contends, is offensive, unjustified and libellous. Mellor responds: "I would be more than happy to let him have his day in court. I had him [Lowe] on the programme, offering him the right of reply, and I told him: 'Jack Walker, you ain't!' Look, it's an extremely peculiar takeover. I did a lot of work researching this and, frankly, nobody in their right mind could prefer people who were running old people's homes when they were offered a takeover from a consortium backed by Gavyn Davies, who might be the next Governor of the Bank of England."

Mellor is gunning for Guy Askham, the former chairman, and Keith Wiseman, both now non-executive members of the board and sitting on shareholdings worth £1.3 million and £750,000 respectively. Wiseman, the Southampton coroner and chairman of the Football Association, recently sought a £75,000 salary for the previously honorary FA position and Mellor is unimpressed.

"I am outraged," the former parliamentarian reiterated yesterday, "that Wiseman, a man of no distinction, should be chairman of the FA and be able to make the best part of a million quid for a couple of thousand invested. If I don't speak up for the fans, who will?"

Outraged, too, is Lowe. He insists that the merger between his company and Southampton was immaculately transacted under stock market regulation and disclosure. He points out that one of the callers on Mellor's programme was convicted this year for causing criminal damage at The Dell.

"I had no idea the maelstrom of hatred that existed around Southampton," he says, "but now I'm here — and I bought my shares above the market price because I'm here as a long-term investor — I will damn well not be tainted by accusations, malicious or otherwise."

FOOTBALL

Francis chooses the exit after losing his way

By Matt Dickinson

"YOU come into this job with your eyes open," Gerry Francis claimed yesterday, but too often recently the departing Tottenham Hotspur manager's eyes had been rooted to the floor.

For a coach reputedly outstanding as a psychologist and man-manager, Francis's body language had spoken all season of someone who had lost the ability to motivate himself, never mind his team, and he leaves the club as he found it — a talented group of individuals careering rudderless from one storm to another.

Yet it was that ability to instil direction and confidence where it had been lost so patently under Osvaldo Ardiles that had heralded his arrival almost three years to the day, Francis taking over from the Argentinian on November 15, 1994.

Ardiles's cavalier policy of five forwards was instantly discarded. David Howells brought in as a defensive midfield player and, with everyone certain of his role, Spurs began to surge back up the table.

A team that Francis had taken over fourth from bottom in the Premiership finished the season seventh, also reaching the FA Cup semi-final where they lost 4-1 to Everton. It had been a successful campaign, but already Francis's troubles were beginning.

Jürgen Klinsmann, Nick Barmby and Gica Popescu all left that summer and while money was spent to replace them, particularly the club-record signing of Chris Armstrong for £4.5 million from Crystal Palace, Francis admitted yesterday he was losing talents that he simply could not find elsewhere.

"The players who left we did not want to go," he said. "The majority of the £30 million that was spent, and I know Alan Sugar would be the first to say we recouped £18 million of it, was not actually increasing the team in terms of number and quality."

Spurs finished eighth in 1995-96, missing a European place on the final day of the season and they appeared to have hit an invisible ceiling, not even threatening to qualify for the Uefa Cup in the last campaign, limping home tenth.

The loss of Teddy Sheringham this season was bad enough from a playing point of view but, worse still, it appeared to signal that Spurs could no longer be regarded as credible championship challengers. "One minute Teddy was talking about a new deal, next minute he was gone and we were without a striker," Francis said.

In a farewell address otherwise faultless in its dignity, it was at that moment that Francis lost his audience yesterday. Asked where it had all gone wrong, he turned, as he has done for longer than anyone cares to remember, to a list of injuries that for too many others doubles up as a list of poor excuses.

As he rattled off the setbacks that have undermined his plans, the question had to be asked whether Spurs would have been better off changing physios rather than managers. Chris Armstrong, Steffen Iversen, Les Ferdinand, Darren Anderton ... the eyes glazed over as the familiar list went on.

Francis yesterday cast his mind back to his first game in charge, against Aston Villa, three years to the day of his resignation. "We were three down with five minutes to go to half-time and there was not a boo to be heard because there was a new manager," he recalled. "We came back to 3-3 and only lost in injury time and then did not lose for 15 games. Sometimes a change of managers can give the whole place a bit of a breather."

Spurs have been here before. And so to Christian Gross.

GERRY FRANCIS'S TRACK RECORD AT TOTTENHAM

[illegible]	
1994/95	League position: 7th
under Francis	Played 29, Won 11, Drawn 12, Lost [illegible]
FA Cup:	Semi-final (lost 4-1 to Everton)
League Cup:	Third round (lost 3-0 to Notts County)
1995/96	League position: 8th
	Played 38, Won 16, Drawn 13, Lost 9
FA Cup:	Fifth round (lost on penalties to Nottingham Forest)
League Cup:	Third round (lost 3-2 to Coventry City)
1996/97	League position: 10th
	Played 38, Won 13, Drawn 7, Lost 18
FA Cup:	Third round (lost 2-0 to Manchester United)
League Cup:	Fourth round (lost 6-1 to Bolton Wanderers)
1997/98	League position: 16th
	Played 14, Won 3, Drawn 4, Lost 7
FA Cup:	
League Cup:	Third round (lost 2-1 to Derby)
Total spent on transfers:	£31.1m
Total received on transfers:	£16.14m

Milosevic set to stay

A RECURRING criticism of Savo Milosevic the striker is his tendency to go round in circles. His widely expected departure from Aston Villa last night appeared to be following a similar course (Richard Hobson writes).

Having seemingly hankered after a move to Italy, Milosevic responded to news that Villa were ready to accept a £4.2 million bid from Napoli by saying he would rather stay with his present club.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said that he felt compelled to talk to a delegation from Napoli because of the danger of losing Milosevic under the Bosman ruling at the end of the season. Napoli, however, are reluctant to continue negotiating while Milosevic remains hostile to a move.

Napoli are second from bottom of Serie A and Milosevic, who turned down a move to Perugia last year, said: "If I ever go to Italy I want to go to a bigger club. I am satisfied at Villa, so why should I go to Napoli?"

Earlier in the week, Little told Milosevic to show loyalty to the club after critical comments attributed to him in a Yugoslavian newspaper. The manager said yesterday: "We do not want to lose him."

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PETER TRIEVNOR

Francis explains his decision to resign as the Tottenham Hotspur manager at a press conference yesterday

Morley makes winning riposte

By Richard Hobson

TREVOR MORLEY will never forget a simple chance he fluffed at Elland Road two years ago. It occurred late in the game and cost Reading, 2-1 down at the time, the likelihood of a Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final replay against Leeds United. On Tuesday night he assuaged his guilt by scoring the goal that earned Reading a place in the last eight of the competition this year.

Morley scored in the 85th minute as Reading, struggling near the bottom of Nationwide League first division, came from 2-1 behind to win 3-2 at Elland Road. For George Graham, the Leeds manager, who had warned his side against complacency, it recalled the dismissal from the FA Cup by the same scoreline against Portsmouth last season.

Although Morley, 36, has ambitions of appearing in his first Wembley final next year, Terry Bullivant, the manager, is more concerned with the impact of the result on league form.

"The players have got to believe they are better than they think they are at the moment," Bullivant said. "Sometimes we do not play with the confidence we should, but this shows what a good side we really are."

The reputation of Michael Owen grows by the day. He marked his first cup-tie with his first senior hat-trick, this at just 17, as Liverpool, without Robbie Fowler, disposed of Grimsby Town with plenty to spare. They were made 5-2 favourites to win the competition for a sixth time yesterday.

While Owen's third goal, a curling shot from 25 yards, had the 28,515 crowd in raptures, Roy Evans, the manager, took greater delight from the first.

"It was a simple tap-in from a loose ball but that is the bread-and-butter chance that the best strikers always take," Evans said.

Newcastle United secured their passage into the quarter-finals at a worrying cost. Warren Barton (hamstring) and John Beresford (groin) were both replaced during the 1-0 win against Derby County, secured through a goal by Jon Dahl Tomasson, and face intensive treatment before the Champions League game against Barcelona in Spain on Wednesday of next week.

It was Derby's first defeat at the new Pride Park Stadium and Jim Smith, the manager, bemoaned two claims for a penalty that were rejected by Martin Bodenham, the referee.

Arsenal may field a stronger side for the remainder of the competition after a goal by Dennis Bergkamp in extra time earned a 1-0 win against Coventry City. Just four of the team chosen by Arsène Wenger have been regulars this season, while Bergkamp himself was only playing to maintain his match fitness while he is suspended from the FA Carling Premiership.

The closest a tie came to penalties was at the Riverside Stadium, where Craig Hignett scored the winning goal in the 115th minute as Middlesbrough, from the first division, beat the struggling Bolton Wanderers, of the Premiership, 2-1.

Whither Oxford United following their 2-1 defeat at the hands of Ipswich Town? The club is losing £15,000 per week and Dennis Smith, the manager, described defeat as "a financial disaster."

Tony Mowbray headed the decisive goal three minutes into extra time.

England continue to scale world rankings

ENGLAND'S glorious past year has been rewarded with their highest position in the Fifa world rankings. England are now sixth, their best showing since the official list was introduced by football's world governing body in the run-up to the 1994 World Cup finals.

The spirited goalless draw in Rome last month that secured England their place in France 98 also took them to sixth place from seventh and completes an impressive surge of six places since January this year.

Brazil remain top but Germany have switched places with Spain to go second. Also above England are the Czech Republic, the European champions, and Romania, who won nine matches in qualifying for France.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS: 1, Brazil 72.15; 2, Germany 64.89; 3, Spain 62.52; 4, Czech Republic 62.48; 5, Romania 61.82; 6, England 61.26; 7, France 60.33; 8, Denmark 59.90; 9, Colombia 59.82; 10, Italy 59.81. Others: 36, Scotland 52.22; 45, Republic of Ireland 47.15; 83, Northern Ireland 36.06; 98, Wales 31.12.

Newcastle plan to hold their ground

By Jason Nisse

NEWCASTLE UNITED may now remain at St James' Park, after submitting plans to the local council for an expansion of the 36,000-seat stadium to more than 50,000.

Though the club refused to confirm this yesterday, supporters and followers of the club in the City interpreted it to mean that Newcastle are dropping their £65 million scheme to build a 55,000-seat stadium on Castle Leazes moor, half a mile north of St James' Park. The Castle Leazes plan involved building on town moorland — protected green belt within the boundaries of Newcasatle — and would have had to be approved by the Department for the Environment, a process that could have taken more than two years.

The new plan was put before the city council last night, with detailed planning permission being submitted next month. A council spokeswoman said that the St James' expansion wuold be approved within four months, allowing work to start at the end of this season.

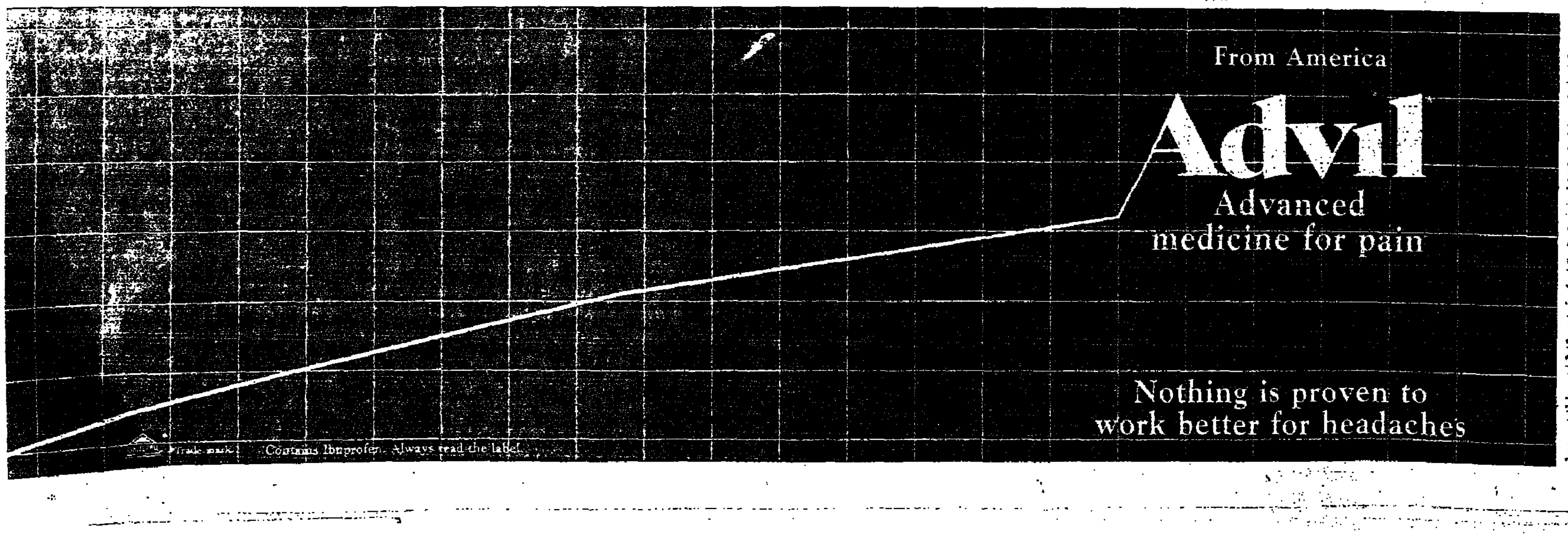
Newcastle officials were loath to give details yesterday, but said that the building work would not cause a drop in capacity at St James' Park, a claim that goes against the experience of all leading UK teams, including Manchester United, Arsenal and Rangers, the former employer of Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive. The scheme is understood to involve building a new tier onto St James', taking off the existing roof.

United said the plan would not mean the club will receive less revenue than the Castle Leazes scheme. However, that involved turning St James' Park into an indoor arena in which the ice hockey and basketball teams owned by Sir John Hall, Newcastle's largest shareholder, could play.

The decision to build on Castle Leazes came after a drawn-out battle with Newcastle City Council, during which Sir John threatened to move the club to a new stadium to be built in Gateshead, across the Tyne from Newcastle. The decision to submit plans for St James' delighted local environmentalists who had long fought the plans.

The Castle Leazes scheme was central to United's flotation prospectus when it joined the stock market in February. Since then its shares have fallen more than a quarter and closed at 99½p yesterday.

☐ Newcastle hope Faustino Asprilla will be back on Saturday against Southampton. The Colombia striker has not played since he injured his groin on October 1.



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Advil
Advanced medicine for pain
Nothing is proven to work better for headaches
Trade mark. Contains Ibuprofen. Always read the label.

هكذا من الأصل

Kewell ready for lead role in real-life drama

Neil Harman finds a precocious talent preparing for the full glare of the spotlight

SIMON WILKINSON

Kewell will become a sporting celebrity in Australia if the national team manages to overcome Iran to secure a place in the finals of the World Cup

There is definitely a hint of Erinsborough High about him; even the name, Harry Kewell, is like something from the imagination of a soap opera writer. However, as we may discover in the World Cup finals next summer, this is no cranky, adolescent Aussie in short trousers.

He is Australia's answer to Paul Scholes — Kewell the Jewel — with a left foot so precious that Terry Venables and George Graham should kneel and give thanks each night that they had the good fortune to stumble across it.

The legs were stretched out in business class this week as the new phenomenon of Leeds United flew home to join Venables and the Australia squad to prepare for the two matches in his fledgeling career — the World Cup qualifying play-off games against Iran — that will decide the last of the 32 places in the finals in France.

It is a far cry from the cramped economy flight that he took from Sydney in 1994 in search of the glamour of the FA Carling Premiership. From the moment he arrived as a 16-year-old from the New South Wales Academy, Leeds knew that they had unearthed a player who could feature prominently in the ten-year plan that was the cornerstone of Howard Wilkinson's strategy, until he was reminded that results in the short term counted for more.

When Wilkinson was dismissed as Leeds manager in September last year he was fortified by the knowledge that he had put into place a structure designed to produce talent as good as anywhere else in the country. At Manchester United, Alex Ferguson had already begun to cast anxious glances over his shoulder.

The emergence of Kewell this season has confirmed the wisdom of Wilkinson's forward planning. He was a member of the team that won the FA Youth Cup last season and many of his former teammates are now waiting to follow him into the first team.

"A gem of a player," Ian McNeill, the Leeds chief scout, said as he watched Kewell undergo some private tuition on his right foot on one of those days when the chill starts in the soles of your shoes and keeps on rising. "I don't think I've seen better at his age."

Graham would have given more teenagers their head last season had his priority not been to ensure that Leeds maintained their Premiership status, but the urge has become irresistible now. Kewell, 19, is the liveliest of the group and his dedication to his career is underlined by the way in which he accepted that he would be restricted to one trip home a year.

"There was no point worrying about it or wishing I could go back to Sydney more often," he said. "I had to get it set in my mind that I'd be away for a long spell. I knew I had to make sacrifices if I wanted to make it in England."

Paul Hart was in charge of youth development under Wilkinson before he left to try to establish a similar formula at Nottingham Forest. His faith in Kewell is unswerving. "From the moment he stepped off that plane, Harry knew what he wanted," Hart said. "He's never looked back and I believe he is the best of a group which has the potential to become the best young players in the country.

"He has a great self-confidence, he won't be budged from doing what he thinks is right for his career. Physically, he was slightly ahead of the rest in the youth team and I'm not surprised how he's emerged. He has a magnificent change of pace and a great left foot as he showed against Derby a couple of weekends ago. It was difficult for me to leave these kids behind because I know they will all make it. I'm proud to have shared in five years of their progress at Leeds because I know how good they are. Harry could be a sensation in the World Cup."

Kewell is grateful for Hart's influence. "He was always pushing me that bit further and never let me settle," he said. "But I have always been a level-headed person. I don't get carried away with anything and, when I scored against Derby, the feeling lasted for a couple of seconds and then it was back to business."

Kewell is first in, last out of training and lives with a local family in Collingham, sharing with three Irish players, Stephen MacPhail, youth team captain last season, Alan Maybury and Damien Lynch. He may have seniority in terms of first-team appearances, but Kewell has not been granted the run of the place and still has to share a room.

> 'His emergence has confirmed the wisdom of Wilkinson's forward planning'

The publicity, Kewell insisted, will not go to his head but it will be difficult to deflect the attention if Australia qualify for France on Saturday week. The calls to the Leeds training ground from Sydney have been increasing, Australian journalists keen to discover more about this young man who could have such a bewitching influence on the growth industry that is Australian soccer. He prefers to keep a low profile, which may be impossible if Australia secure their World Cup place in front of an 80,000 crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 29. That will be real drama, no soap required.

SAILING

Dalton left at the mercy of sea change

EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE top half of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet was making good progress towards the second-leg stopover at Fremantle yesterday with the leader, *Swedish Match*, having fewer than 1,500 miles to sail.

With a steady, southwesterly air flow driving the boats at average speeds of up to 18 knots, the laggards can only hope that the high-pressure system of Western Australia will give them a chance to catch up.

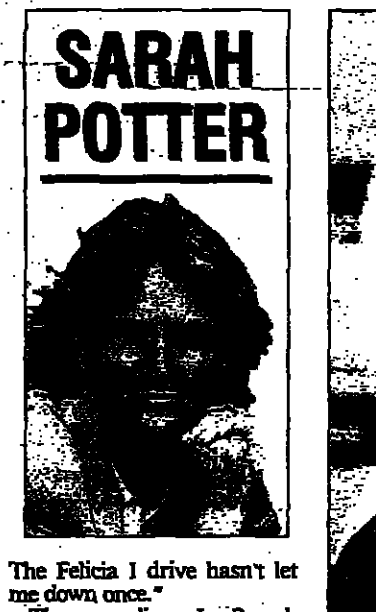
The second leg is proving a disappointment for Grant Dalton in *Merit Cup*, one of the pre-race favourites, which started well with a second place in leg one. Dalton is in seventh position and admitted: "They [the other boats] are embedded in a strong southwesterly flow making huge mileage and going approximately 4-5 knots faster than us. It is most unlikely that we can improve unless there is a dramatic change in the weather."

Meanwhile, Paul Cayard, skipper of the first-leg winner, *EF Language*, should be content with his position of fourth, which would make him the overall leader after two legs, just two points ahead of Knut Frostad's yacht, *Innovation Kvaerner*.

Silk Cut, skippered by Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, continues to hold fifth place, 675 miles behind *Swedish Match*.

Oxfordshire woman takes fast lane to place in line-up for RAC Rally

Heijink overtaken by desire to drive



Melissa Heijink has a surname that sounds like she might enjoy a daring, boisterous kind of sport. No surprise, then, that the delivery driver from the Oxfordshire town of Witney is gearing up to race a 1300cc Skoda Felicia in the Network Q RAC Rally this weekend.

It all started a year ago when her boyfriend and parents bought her an unusual 24th birthday present. The Find a Lady Rally Driver competition, run by the Silverstone Rally School, was advertised on local radio. No previous rally experience was allowed and 110 women paid to have a go at this male-dominated sport. "They knew I would love it," Heijink said. "My boyfriend, Steve, races motorbikes and I'm happiest when I'm behind the wheel."

Heijink won her dream prize: a rally year competing in the Skoda Trophy. With all entry and travel fees covered — including three trips abroad — use of the car and back-up from a service crew, its value was about £25,000.

"The judges went on lots of things," Heijink said. "How we got on with people and what we were like in front of camera was considered as important as our driving technique."

She had not driven a Skoda before and, despite accolades such as best budget car in *What Car* magazine, she shared the view that the Czech motor lacked "street cred". Heijink now knows this to be unfair. "If you've never driven one, you'd be surprised," she said. "It's now part of the Volkswagen Group, so maybe its road image will change. The Felicia I drive hasn't let me down once."

The comedian, Jo Brand, has also entered the RAC, in a Peugeot GTi, and gets good mileage from jokes about unfashionable cars, which Skodas certainly were. Heijink, though, has now competed in, and finished, six Skoda Trophy rallies. She came sixteenth out of 25 and won the novices' trophy. Anna Tait was the only other woman in that competition and she too will drive in the RAC.

Although Heijink missed the French rally through work commitments, she has sped through the less hospitable countryside that Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Belgium have to offer, experiencing fear as well as thrills.

"Early on in the season, I remember going round this dusty, slippery forest road, looking to my right and seeing nothing. It was just a sheer drop. I wondered what I was doing it for, but the adrenalin kicked in and took over."

Heijink moved from van driver to the RAC Rally in a year

Confidence to overcome doubt at high speed has partly come from her co-driver, Richard Taunt, a director of the Silverstone Rally School. He shouts the pace notes and trust is vital. "Sometimes it can be like leading a blind person, because you can't see where the road goes. A picture of what's ahead comes from his instructions," she added.

It seems such a pity that, just as Heijink is beginning to excel at powering past waving crowds wrapped in wellies and waterproofs, she might have to stutter to an unwelcome stop. If a sponsor does not come forward soon, she will not be able to afford to continue.

"I'm treating this like it's my last rally," she said. "It's awful because there's been a great sense of being part of something. I've met some fantastic people and been amazed by the support all the guys have given me. If you prove yourself, there's no chauvinism."

She is happy that the RAC Rally will begin and end in Cheltenham. Her boyfriend and parents have watched all her races but now, with the rally route so close to home, her friends can satisfy their curiosity.

"It's funny, because a lot of the garages I deliver parts to for work joke that I always get there fast," Heijink said. "I say it's because I'm a rally driver and now they can come and see for themselves."

They will not, though, be able to watch the former world champion, Stig Blomqvist, because of an entry mix-up. The Swede was set to race in the Skoda team. "It's gutting, because he's one of the all-time greats," Heijink said. "I was really looking forward to meeting him."

Her heart is simply set on a finish. Her portfolio will look all the more impressive for a good drive in the RAC but, if it is to be the last race in an all-too-short career, Heijink has little doubt how she will spend her spare time. "I'll go out and watch, just for the sheer pleasure of being there."

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 20th November 1997 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	Rate per Annum GROSS %*	GROSS* C.A.R.%
Business Interest Cheque Account		
Instant Access Cheque Account		
£250,000+	3.75	3.80
£100,000-249,999	3.30	3.34
£50,000-99,999	2.85	2.88
£10,000-49,999	2.45	2.47
£2,000-9,999	2.10	2.12
£1-1,999	1.20	1.21
Schools Banking Account		
	5.05	5.15
Capital Reserve Account**		
£250,000+	5.85	5.98
£100,000-249,999	5.65	5.77
£50,000-99,999	5.35	5.46
£10,000-49,999	4.95	5.04
£2,000-9,999	4.50	4.58
£1-1,999	4.50	4.58
Practice Call Account†		
	5.40	5.51
Designated Clients Account		
£100,000+	5.40	5.51
£50,000-99,999	5.20	5.30
£10,000-49,999	4.95	5.04
£2,000-9,999	3.90	3.96
£1-1,999	2.15	2.17
Business Call Account		
£250,000+	4.45	4.52
£50,000-249,999	4.25	4.32
£10,000-49,999	3.90	3.96
£1,000-9,999	3.60	3.65
£1-999	3.35	3.39

TSB

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly.
*Before deduction of income tax at the lower rate
**7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. †Minimum balance £2,000

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London EC3P 3BS

TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House,
120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH.

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Answers from page 45

IMBUYA

(b) A Brazilian timber tree, *Phoebe porosa*, or the wood obtained from it. A Portuguese adaptation of the local name for the tree. "Imbuya is a brown wood imported from the Central and South America. It is occasionally called Brazilian walnut because of the similarity of its colour to walnut. It is softer than black walnut and is usually available in logs and thin planks."

METANOIA

(b) Penitence, repentance; reorientation of one's way of life, spiritual conversion. From the Greek *metanoein* to change one's mind, repent. "*It must reveal the Church as the community in which the religious intentionality of all people can blossom into that newness of life that is the real metanoia.*"

MURU

(a) Official robbery: the Maori system of plunder as a penalty. "There were in the old times two great institutions in Maori land — the *Tapu* and the *Muru*. Pakehas called the *muru* simply robbery. But I speak of the regular legalised and established system of plundering, as penalty for offences."

HEEMRAD

(b) A local petty court or council assisting the landdrost in South Africa and also formerly in Holland; *also*, a member of this council. From the Dutch *heem* a village, home + *raad* council. "Lord Caledon, after our second annexation of the Cape, revived an old kind of elected Councils, named Heemraden, for the government of the inland districts."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 e6! Qxd6 2 Qxg7+ Ke8 3 Qg8+ Ke7 4 Rg7+ Kf6 5 Rf7+ Ke5 6 Qg3+ and mate next move.

SNOOKER: WORLD NO 5 FALLS VICTIM AS PRINCE BECOMES KING FOR THE DAY

Ebdon plotting his recovery course

BY PHIL YATES

PETER EBDON remained upbeat despite losing 9-5 to Jason Prince, the world No 42, in the latest upset to feature at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship in Preston yesterday.

Ebdon has made a wretched start to the season. He has avoided defeat in only one of five matches and will not travel to the German Open next month after failing to qualify.

Regardless of such a dismal recent record, he remained unswervingly optimistic. "There's no reason why I can't be world No 1 in the next two or three years. That is still the aim," he said.

"This is only a minor setback and I will come back stronger. I am bitterly disappointed but you have got to take it on the chin."

Ebdon insisted his present vulnerability is a by-product of distractions and a less intense early-season work-rate than usual. In an attempt to address this problem, he sent two of his prized racehorses, Magic Lake and Ordained, to the Doncaster sales yesterday. "I am doing that to give myself a kick up the backside," Ebdon, the world No 5, said.

"I feel I am at the crossroads and I've got to give myself new direction and focus. I have to get my dedication and determination back."

While Ebdon's self-confidence in the face of such a descent is commendable, by talking of topping the rankings and winning tournaments, in the wake of such a dismal sequence of results, he is putting himself under unnecessary pressure to deliver.

Held 4-4 overnight, Ebdon was expected to surge away but Prince, an Ulsterman resident in West Yorkshire for the past ten years, accounted for five of the next six frames, even though he compiled only one half-century break in the process. Prince, who turned professional with the class of 1990, which included Ken Doherty and Alan McManus, but has achieved only a fraction of their success, advances to meet McManus for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I practice with James Wattana a lot when he is in this country and he can't believe that I have never really done myself justice," Prince said.

"It made me realise that instead of worrying what is the correct shot to play, I should just concentrate on my natural game."

Wattana, the world No 12, subsequently became the eighth member of the top 16 to be eliminated when he lost 9-8 to Gary Wilkinson. The Thai recovered from 8-5 down to 8-8 but wasted a couple of opportunities in a typically tense deciding frame to allow Wilkinson through.

Ronnie O'Sullivan, who led Terry Murphy 5-3, looked to be on course to supply his opposition in the fourth round.

هكذا من الاهل

Life-or-death situations illustrate power of adrenalin

Tapping into the fear factor

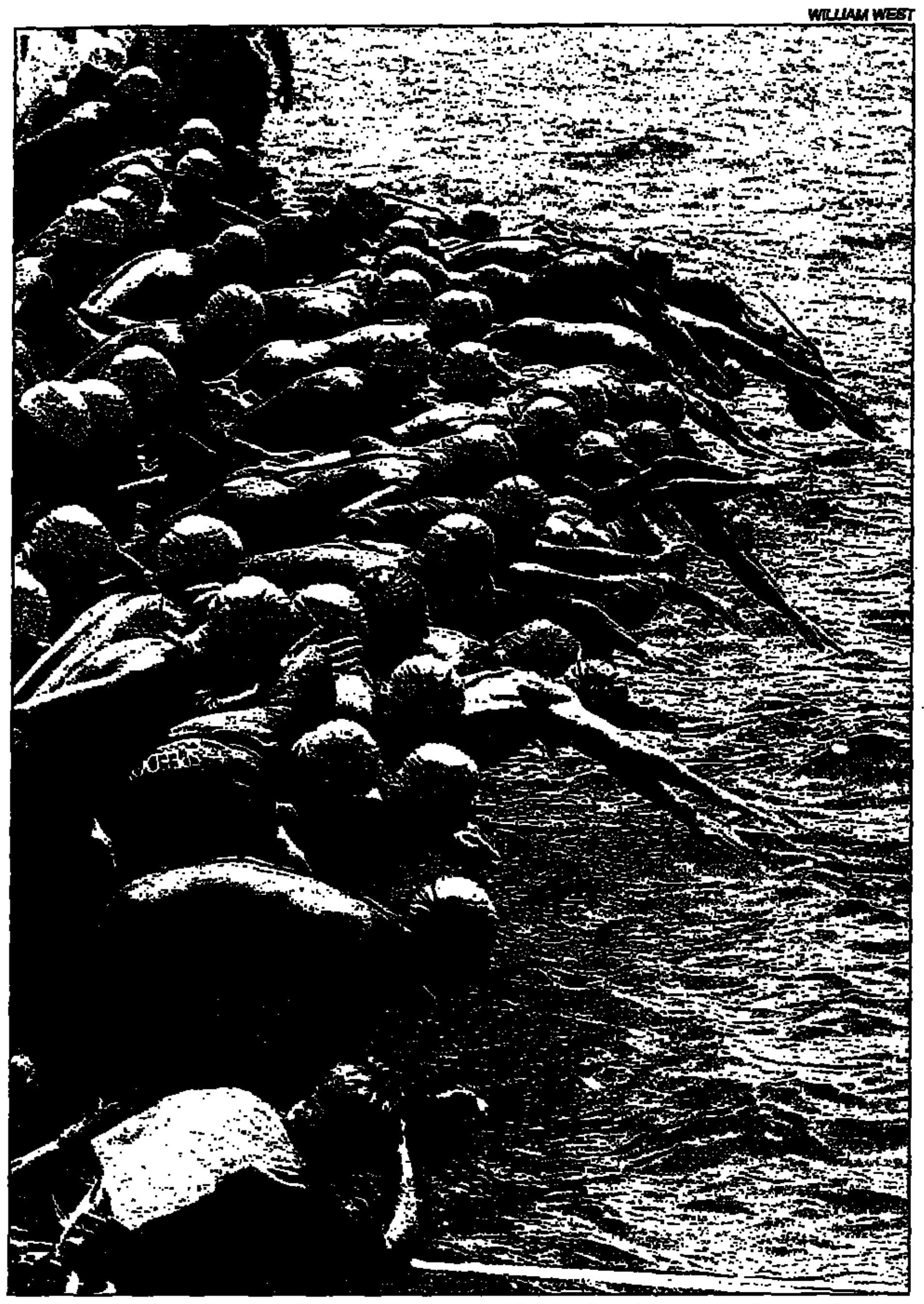
BRYANT'S EYE

Sport should never be a matter of life and death, but could you swim faster if you were being chased by a shark? It could be a serious question for competitors and coaches at the world championships in Perth, Australia, next year. Fina, swimming's governing body, has ordered spotter planes and armed scuba-divers to guard the long-distance ocean events after a recent spate of shark attacks.

Kevin Holtom, the race co-ordinator, said: "Each competitor will have a support boat and there will also be back-up crews with lifeboats and rubber duckies [dinghies], as well as helicopters. We also agreed to get a surveillance plane to fly overhead to look out for sharks, and there will even be a team of scuba-divers armed with spear guns."

Holtom said that the precautions were to stop the swimmers from experiencing fear. But perhaps he is doing them no favours, for there are many who believe that fear could be the vital ingredient needed to produce a record-shattering performance.

Dr Murray Watson, the zoologist, is convinced that a fear-enhanced feat will beat a drug-assisted athletic performance. He used to keep a tooth-torn pair of bush shorts in his office in the Tsavo National Park in Kenya to remind him of the night that he beat the high jump world record.



Swimmers take to the water in Australia, but would a chasing shark make them go faster?

WILLIAM WEST

This record cannot be found in the books, because it was achieved far from any stadium and with the aid of a pack of hyenas. It took place in the national park one night in 1965 after Murray's Land Rover had broken down two miles from his base camp.

He was 26, relatively new to Africa, and he decided to walk back to camp rather than stay with his vehicle. Within a few hundred yards, and with darkness closing in, he found he was being hunted by a pack of hyenas. When the leading animal snapped at him, he decided it was time to hide.

In desperation, and with the hyenas snarling at his back — one even took a bite out of his shorts — he jumped for the lowest branch of a tree and swung to safety. He sat it out in the tree. At dawn he was amazed to find that he was more than 12 feet from the ground and, once down, despite repeated attempts, he could not get within four feet of the leap he had achieved the night before. His colleagues, sceptical of his story, had a go at matching his jump, but not one of them could get near it.

It is not the only story of its kind. Watson's performance echoes that of others who, in moments of high danger, pull off the seemingly impossible. There is the case of the distraught Florida mother, Maxwell Rogers, who lifted a station-wagon off her trapped son and held it long enough for the child to be pulled free. She weighed 8st 11lb and the vehicle 3,600lb. Trained strongmen found it difficult to match her feat, but for her there had been no weight-lifting, no steroids. Instead she was just using one of the great resources available to any sportsman — the power of mind over matter.

There are plenty of sports scientists who feel that the limits of physical conditioning have nearly been reached and that the great advances of the future will come from psychology. What they know is that the human who attempts the impossible because he is being hounded by wild animals is mobilising an innate fear-or-flight reaction and dosing himself up on one of the most powerful and ancient of stimulants — adrenalin.

Adrenalin is a remarkable performance enhancer. If athletes were offered a stimulant that promised to increase the rate and depth of their breathing during competition, boost heart rate and mask pain, the International Olympic Committee would want to ban it. Yet it already exists. When adrenalin kicks in, it can fire freak performances from the untrained, or spark barrier-breaking records from sportsmen, providing tantalising glimpses of what is possible without drugs.

Sometimes we are privileged to witness the untapped potential of the body within a stadium, as when Bob Beamon unleashed his record-shattering long jump in 1968, which confounded experts and put the world mark out of sight for nearly three decades.

David Hemery, who won gold in the 400 metres at the same Olympic Games, co-wrote a book called *Winning Without Drugs*, in which he puts forward the theory that everything that a human being might achieve with artificial stimulants can be matched using natural and legal training procedures, and by harnessing the power of the mind.

Few can doubt that, for the swimmers in Perth, the sight of a shark fin on the horizon would flood their bodies with adrenalin and speed them up. So, perhaps the trick for the coaches of the future is to plant the fear of the shark, without the reality.

> 'Coaches must plug natural responses of aggression and survival'

If they could do this, they could plug into the natural responses of fear, aggression and survival that are such powerful legacies from our past. If psychology and technology can work together, virtual-reality sharks and hyenas may yet chase man to heights and speeds as yet undreamt of.

In this age of professionalism and hype, physical performances are often touted as if they were a matter of life or death. Through millions of years of survival, of course, they were. Make-believe sharks, and hyenas that snarl only in the mind, may yet unlock amazing powers to run, jump and swim. To our ancestors, such sport really was a matter of life and death.

JOHN BRYANT

TENNIS: SCHULTZ-McCARTHY IS FORCED TO WITHDRAW BY INJURY IN SHOWCASE TOURNAMENT

Hingis struggles to maintain momentum

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN NEW YORK

THE Chase Championships are billed as the showcase for women's tennis. Over seven days, the great and the good do battle to decide who is the champion of champions. But late on Tuesday night, the year's achievements were wrapped up in two matches as Martina Hingis, winner of Wimbledon and the Australian and US Opens, and Iva Majoli, winner of the French Open, won their opening matches. The "grand slam" encapsulated in two young women, neither of whom are old enough to buy a beer in this state to celebrate their success.

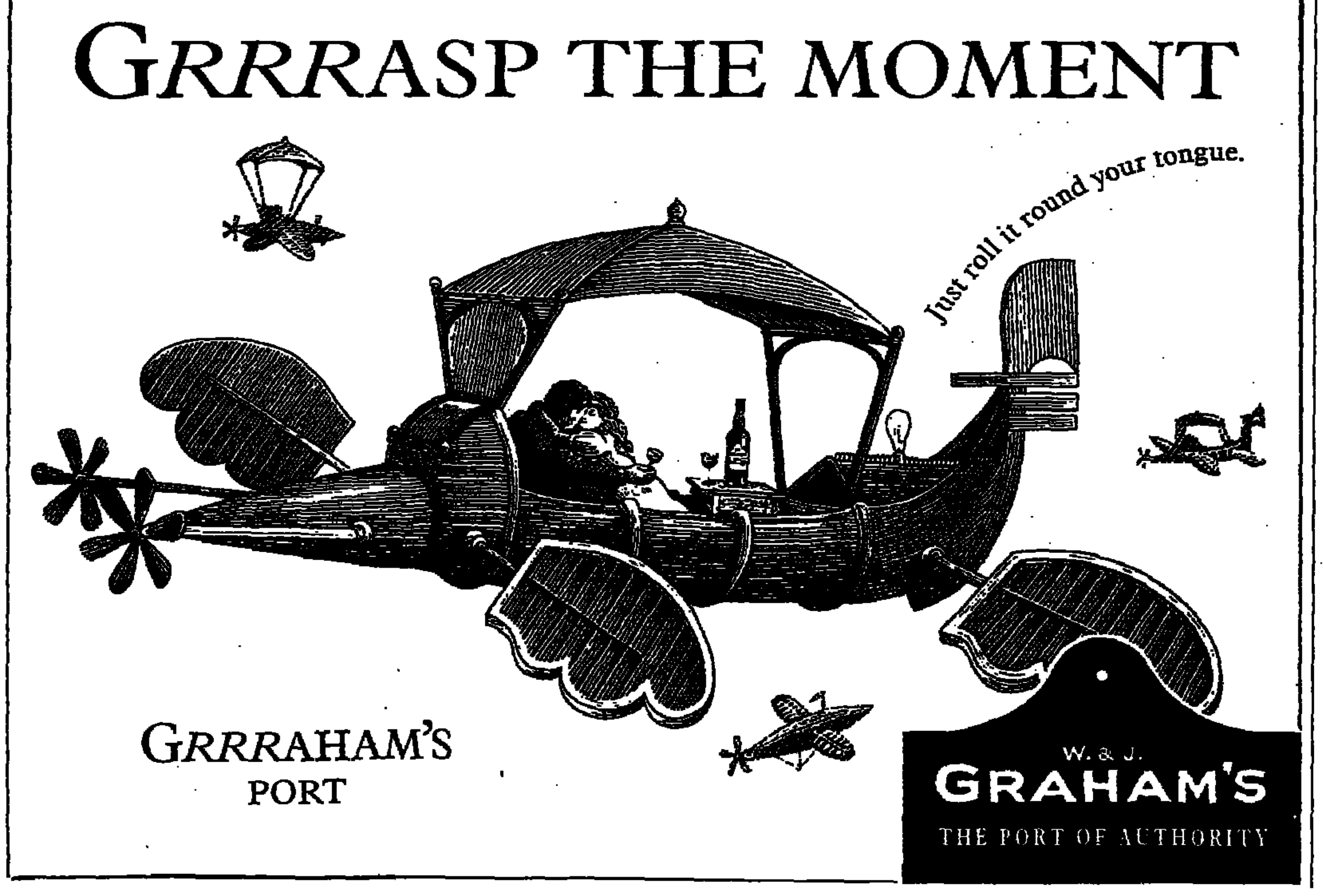
Hingis was helped on her way by Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who had to default in mid-match with a toe injury. Stretching for a volley at the start of the second set she missed her footing, tore a toenail and gave up the struggle seven games later, allowing Hingis to go through 7-6, 5-2. It has been that sort of year for Schultz-McCarthy. She has had Achilles problems, an ankle injury and is scuppered by a toenail.

Nothing about Schultz-McCarthy is orthodox. She has a forehand that makes it look as if she is knocking a nail into a wall and a service that could kill a yak, but when it comes to stringing the shots together it all goes wrong. Serving aces with carefree abandon, she had Hingis on the rack for large parts of the first set but, when it came to putting away the winner on the big points, she fluffed it, landing shots in the front row of the stalls and overheads in the bottom of the net.

As for Hingis, she was happy to have the first win in the bank. At only 17 and with all that has happened to her this year, she admitted that it is hard to keep the momentum going. Last week in Philadelphia she had three close and tough matches. The word is out in the locker-room that Hingis is beatable provided someone has the confidence. Whether Mary Pierce, her next opponent, is the one remains to be seen. Pierce has the rare ability to play brilliant and wayward tennis in the course of one rally.

Majoli is one of the few to have had the better of Hingis this year, beating her in the French Open final, but since then her form has been on the slide. Playing her old adversary, Anke Huber, she eventually won the baseline war of attrition. With Majoli grunting on every stroke and Huber squealing at every mistake, the grunts beat the squeals 7-6, 7-6.

Then it was left to the older players to make their mark. Jana Novotna, positively elderly in this company at 29 but improving with age, outplayed Conchita Martinez, four years her junior, 6-4, 6-4.



GRRRASP THE MOMENT
Just roll it round your tongue.
GRRRAHAM'S PORT
W. & J. GRAHAM'S
THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

TELEVISION CHOICE

Travellers' tales of woe

Holiday Reps
BBC1, 8.30pm

All thoughts that working for a tour company abroad means having a paid holiday are banished for good. Poor Caroline, the bubbly blonde we met last week, has the ultimately dreadful task of trying to pacify increasingly angry customers as they wait hour after hour for their flight home. It is not Caroline's fault that a flash storm has hit Minorca Airport and that the flight has yet to leave Gatwick. But she is Unijet's person on the spot and gets the flak. On Lanzarote, meanwhile, Claire is also wondering whether being a holiday rep is a good idea. She is getting homesick and may have to miss two important weddings. Eve may also live to regret her sojourn in the sun. Having ignored the company's warning about the attentions of local men, she is worried that her romance with Spanish waiter Andreas has gone too far.

Dover
ITV, 8.30pm

It is Europe's busiest ferry port at the best of times and at Easter Dover is even busier than usual. Perhaps it is the Bank Holiday mood which gives tonight's film a jocular air. The search of a Europe-bound rugby team for offensive weapons yields only a blow-up doll and lots of drink. Alcohol has already done for three loutish males who are ejected from a coach for abusive behaviour. Even a swoop by HM Customs and Excise on a suspected tobacco smuggler has its funny side, as the man comes up with an unlikely story and officer Peter says, with a twinkle in his eye, that he does not believe a word of it. And although the victim might not agree, there is something amusing about a woman who accidentally posts her passport in a letter box at Dover Priory station.

Scare Stories: Bursting At the Seams
BBC2, 9.25pm

In 1968 the American biologist Paul Erhlich predicted that millions would starve to death because the planet could not feed them. It has not happened and this first of five films about environmental doomwatching argues that fears about over-population have been largely misplaced. Michael Buerk, who reported so memorably on the Ethiopian famine in the 1980s, says the main cause of people going hungry was the civil war which stopped food getting through. The film claims that all coercive policies to reduce population growth, such as China's "one child" campaign, have failed and suggests that the real solution to smaller families is growing prosperity. That, of course, is the Vatican line, but it finds no favour with women who see contraception as a means of having control over their bodies.

The Windsor Castle fire (ITV, 10.40pm)

Windsor Restored
ITV, 10.40pm (Ulster 11.10pm, Grampian 11.40pm, STV 11.45pm)

As Bill McLaren says at rugby matches, this is a right royal occasion. A documentary charting the rebuilding of Windsor Castle after the fire five years ago is produced by Prince Edward and includes contributions from the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. Partly it is a story of remarkable escapes. Thanks to rapid evacuation work by a human chain, almost all the castle's treasures were saved. But the fire still damaged or destroyed more than 100 rooms, nearly one fifth of the building. That none of this is evident today is a tribute to skilled restoration on a scale rarely attempted in Britain. In some areas, notably St George's Hall which has a new ceiling and freshly revealed medieval designs, the refurbishment has improved on what was there before the fire. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Service of Thanksgiving
Radio 4, 10.45am, (LW only)

An upheaval in the schedules means that I feel obliged to turn this space into a public information slot. The service in question is for the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary and it is being transmitted on long wave only. There are several consequences. There will be no *Daily Service* on long wave at 10.00am and *Woman's Hour* (at 10.30) will be on FM only, meaning that women who are Christian, monarchist and feminist face something of a dilemma. Listeners who cannot get an FM signal will hear, at 10.00am, part four of the Agatha Christie story *A Caribbean Mystery*, which is usually on FM only but which today is being transmitted on both FM and long wave. It all makes perfect sense to someone.

Ray Bradbury's Tales of the Bizarre
Radio 4, 11.00pm

A series of six Bradbury short stories, each of which is opened by the author giving an instant picture of the story's origins. *The Man Upstairs*, he says, harks back to time spent in his grandmother's kitchen when he was a child; watching food being prepared, fascinated by poultry being carved up to reveals the innards. That and the occasions when he "watched our star boarder eat his soup" contributed to this story about the new lodger in a boarding house who finds that Douglas, grandson of the landlady, takes an instant dislike to him. Finlay Welsh is the lodger increasingly alarmed by what the boy might do. Geoffrey Lee is Douglas and Mary Riggans plays the grandmother. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** *Dave Pearce* **6.15** *Newsbeat* **6.30** *Evening Session* **8.30** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **8.40** John Peel. Includes a live session by the Delgados **10.30** Charlie Jordan **12.00** Blue Jam **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Children in Need. The launch of this year's appeal **12.05am** Steve Madden: Includes Children in Need **3.00** John Terrett. Includes Children in Need

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am *The Breakfast Programme* **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Football on the Brink. A new series focusing on the teams facing relegation **8.00** Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet **9.00** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Richard Dallyn **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene **1.00pm** (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Carrin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Meridian Books **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale **7.30** Composer of the Month **8.00** *News* **8.10** *Pause for Thought* **8.15** *Performance* **8.30** The Ed Stewart Show **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Poems by Post **9.30** BBC English: Business File **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Discovery **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Children in Conversation **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Record *News* **12.45** *Sports Roundup* **1.00** *Newshour* **2.00** *News* **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack X-Press **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway **3.30** The *Vintage Chart Show* **4.00** *News* **4.15** *Record News* **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Assignment; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** John Peel **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** *Composer of the Week* **2.00** *Newsday* **2.30** *Focus on Faith* **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Assignment **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** *Newsday* **5.30** *Europe Today*

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. Including Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly Michael Berry's Classic Recipe is *Middle Eastern lamb stew. Plus, the Classic Masterpiece* **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Martucci (Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor) **3.00** *Jamie Crick* **7.00** *Newsnight with John Brunning* **7.30** *Sonata.* Debussy (Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp) **8.00** Evening Concert. Saint-Saëns (Le Rouet d'Omphale; Carnival of the Animals; Violin Concerto No 3 in B minor; Symphony No 3 in C minor) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin); Bach (French Suite No 5 in G); Stanford (For Lo, I Raise Up); Grieg (Lyric Suite); Handel (Arrival of the Queen of *Sheba, Solomon); Poulenc (Le Bal Masqué)*
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in F); Debussy (Estampes); Falla (Homages); W.F. Bach (Harpsichord Concerto in A minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with John Toal. Grainger (Country Gardens); Britten (Choral Dances, Gloriana); Bridge, arr Britten (There is a Willow Grows Aslant a Brook); Shostakovich (Suite Hamlet); Haydn (Piano Trio in F sharp minor); *Leroy Anderson (The Typewriter); Poulenc (Sonata* for Two Clarinets); Stambaugh (Il Campanile); Reger (Beethoven Variations)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss
1.00pm Verismo Voices. Gordon Stewart presents the last programme exploring Italian verismo. Includes excerpts from operas including *Cavalleria Rusticana, Tosca, Andrea Chenier, Francesca da Rimini* and *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Among the voices are Cosotto, Raimondi, Scotto, Gobbi, Muzio, *Price, Olivero and Corelli (r)*
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka, with Mayumi Fujikawa, violin. Mathias (Celtic Dances); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D; Overture Romeo and Juliet); Dvořák (Symphony No 8 in G)
4.00 Ensemble. A recital by the Coull Quartet, Ivo van *der Werff, viola, and David Smith, cello.* Mendelssohn (Capriccio); Brahms (String Sextet No 2 in G) (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty.
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). A concert given on Saturday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Timothy Lines, clarinet, David *Hockings, vibraphone, Nicole Tibbels, soprano,* Teresa Shaw, mezzo, London Sinfonietta under Thomas Ades, piano. Georges Enescu (Symphonie de Chambre); Niccolo Castiglioni (Cantus Planus II, UK premiere); Thomas Ades (Concerto Conciso, London premiere); Jean Barraque (Concerto)
9.10 **Postscript: Tales from the Stacks** (4/5)
9.25 Debut. George Petrou and Christos Papageorgiou, pianos. Schumann (Andante and Variations in B flat); Liszt (Reminiscences de Don Juan)
10.00 Music Restored. Chris de Souza introduces the first of four concerts from Radio 3's special day of Invitation Concerts at the Royal Academy of Music *celebrating the musical life of late 18th-century* London. With Maggie Cole, fortepiano, Katie Bircher, flute, Henrietta Wayne, violin, and Timothy *Kraemer, cello*
10.45 Night Waves. Michele Roberts investigates the new *enfants terribles* of French theatre
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti *(r)*
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather is joined by Dave Gelly for the latest jazz news and CD reviews
1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** *Today* **8.40** *Yesterday in Parliament* **8.58** *Weather*
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk chairs a live investigation into the moral questions behind the week's news
10.00 News; A Caribbean Mystery. Agatha Christie's novel, dramatised by Michael Bakewell. Starring June Whitfield as Miss Marple (4/5)
10.30 **(LW) On This Day,** with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 (FM) Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray talks to the actress Geraldine McEwan
10.45 (LW) Service of Thanksgiving. Live from Westminster Abbey. See Choice
11.30 (FM) From Our Own Correspondent. News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Inspiration. Chris Stuart chairs another round of the panel game. He is joined by Professor Lewis Wolpert, Adam Hart-Davis and guests including Dr Len Fisher **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** *Shipping* Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Little Lower than the Angels. Rachel Joyce's play about a chance meeting. *With Niamh Cusack, Finbar* Lynch, David Bannerman and Alison Pettit
3.00 News; Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 *News* **4.05** *Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees Seven Years in Tibet*, in which Brad Pitt plays the educator of the Dalai Lama. Plus the implications of a *new age of video surveillance*
4.45 Short Story: Child of Clay, by Bernie Crosthwaite, read by Josie Lawrence
5.00 PM, with *Clare English* and Charlie Lee-Potter **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 On the Town with the *League of Gentlemen*. A black comedy written by and starring Steve Pemberton, Reece Shearsmith, Mark Gatiss and Jeremy Dyson
7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
7.20 Document. Alan Dein uncovers a chain of events which led to a mass pupils' strike in support of an *inspirational teacher in 1971 (2/6)*
8.00 Analysis: Shake Hands and Be Civil. Ian Hargreaves examines the shifting focus of politics
8.45 Torremolinos: Beyond the Beaches. Harry Ritchie meets some of the British expats who settled in the resort 30 years ago (2/3)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? *The magazine made by* and about people with disabilities
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 ***Book at Bedtime: A Simple Heart.*** Julian Barnes reads Gustave Flaubert's classic tale of a woman's life in 19th-century Normandy (2/3)
11.00 *Ray Bradbury's Tales of the Bizarre:* The Man Upstairs. See Choice
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Offspring, with John Peel (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Bright Lights, Big City, by Jay McInerney (4/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 ***As World Service***

***FREQUENCY GUIDE.* RADIO 1. *FM 97.6-99.8.* RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. *FM 90.2-92.4.* RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.**

Television and *radio* listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Name-calling and cryptic crossword clues

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

As our schools paddle in the shallow intellectual waters of multiple choice and continuous assessment, how quaint to find **Inspector Morse** (ITV) banging the drum for traditional mental exercise last night by setting us cryptic crossword clues — an extra *brain-teaser for those hungry* to solve more than just the plot of Colin Dexter's latest Morse saga, *Death Is Now My Neighbour.*

So what, after 31 Morse films, *is* the man's first name? Hmmm?

"Morse," mumbles John Thaw to his would-be lover, Adele, trying to make it sound as sexy as when Agent 007 introduces himself simply as "Bond". "Everyone just . . . calls me Morse. I do *have* a first name, of course, but I'd have to know you better," he adds; which must have made Lewis feel loved.

But when Adele warns the Inspector that he won't *get* to know her better unless he coughs up his first name, Morse fudges: "My whole life's effort has revolved around Eve. Nine letters. And that's the truth. The whole truth."

Can you imagine Morse's reaction if a murder suspect he was interviewing tried to be this cute with him? ("Was I at the scene of the crime, Inspector? Well, let me put it this way, if I may — My first is in toy, but not in tot; my second is in hell, but not in hot; my last's *not* in bet, but *is* in Bess. So was I at the scene? You'll just have to guess." Closely followed by, "Loooowiss! Get this cretin out of *my sight, before I do something I'll* regret. Like pay for my own pint.")

The anagram of "around Eve", as crossword solvers will know, is Endeavour. But *why?* "*My father*," he tells Adele, while Lewis is at the bar buying yet another round for the tight-fisted Morse, "was obsessed by Captain Cook and his ship was called *HMS . . .*"

"Poor sod!" said Lewis, who managed to eavesdrop just in time.

"I'm not calling you Endeavour," said Adele. "I'll stick to Morse, like everyone else."

Endeavour is not so bad, especially when you consider what might have happened if his father had been obsessed by say, Sir Francis Drake, or Charles Darwin, or Christopher Columbus, or even Jacques Cousteau. Of course, by the time they film the remake of *Death Is Now My Neighbour*, ITV will have replaced Morse's cryptic crossword caper with a more viewer-friendly multiple-choice option. *Adele:* "So what's your full name, Morse." *Morse:* "I do *have* a *full name, of course, born of my* father's obsession with Captain Cook. So is it: (a) Golden Hind Morse; (b) Beagle Morse; (c) Santa Maria Morse; (d) Calypso Morse; or (e) Endeavour Morse?"

John Thaw, as Morse, and Kevin Whately, as Lewis, glided through Dexter's cosy plot with the unfussy ease of a married couple who know — without even bothering to catch their spouse's eye — *how each will react to any new* circumstance. The starry supporting cast — Roger Allam, Maggie Steed, Judy Loe — shimmered. Richard Briers, as Sir Clixby Bream, shone. Just as we were mourning last week's death of Isaiah Berlin, envying him his long, uplifting life of academic contemplation, along came Sir Clixby, the viperish outgoing master of Lonsdale College, Oxford, to remind us how bitchy academia can be: Julius Caesar's back bore fewer stab wounds than that of even the lowliest university don.

Sadly, Channel 4's Secret Lives on L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology, failed to enter into the spirit of the evening by challenging us to guess what the "L" stood for. So let me make you an offer on their behalf: "Eat, fly, eat! ordered the combative French marquis. Nine letters" (answer at the bottom of the column).

The gist of the programme itself *was not so secret either, even* before John Travolta made the documentary front-page news by pleading with Channel 4 not to show it. Most people who are not Scientologists have long thought that "L" Ron Hubbard was a fantasist and charlatan who was lucky to have found people eager to believe his science fiction. As Cyril Vosper, once on Hubbard's staff, said: "He told so many stories of his exploits in South America and West Indies and places that he would have had to be at least 483 years old to have had enough time to have done all those things. But that doesn't matter. It was just very entertaining, really. Except that he turned it into a religion." Not so entertaining, though, for the little boy Hubbard imprisoned in a wet, dark cell for two days for committing some teensy misdemeanour; nor for Hubbard's son, Quentin, who committed suicide rather than tell his father that he was gay.

It doesn't seem too surprising that people such as Lisa Marie Presley and Tom Cruise have succumbed. But Travolta? It would have been useful to see someone like him batting for Hubbard's ideas, because they don't look like the sort that the Travolta we know would swallow — certainly not the Travolta of Vincent Vega in *Pulp Fiction*? Just consider:

INT. '74 CHEVY. MORNING.

Vincent: "You know what they call The Big Cheese, L. Ron Hubbard, in Paris?" *Jules:* "They don't call him The Big Cheese?" *Vincent:* "No, man, they got the French language over there." *Jules:* "What'd they call him?" *Vincent:* "They call him Le Grand Fromage." *Jules:* "Le Grand Fromage." *Vincent:* "Yeah, that's right." *Jules:* "What'd they call Scientology?" *Vincent:* "Well, Scientology's Scientology, but they call it *Le* Scientology". *Jules:* "*Le Scientology. What'd they call Judaism?*" *Vincent:* "I dunno, I didn't go into a synagogue."

See what I mean?

Oh, and that crossword clue answer, if it makes Morse feels any better, is Lafayette.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (86759)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (74827)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (5477730)
9.25 Style Challenge (5496865)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2275597)
10.30 News (T) and weather (8459407)
10.35 The Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary Service of thanksgiving for the Golden Wedding Anniversary of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, from *Westminster Abbey. The Royal Family* join other couples sharing the same anniversary day for the service, before attending a lunch in their honour at the Banqueting House (T) **Subsequent programmes are subject to change** (37523049)
12.35pm Give Us A Clue (2190198)
1.00 News (T) and weather (77914)
1.30 Regional News (84204310)
1.40 The Weather Show (59762575)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (44217643)
2.05 Quincy (r (2884488)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (7894681)
3.30 Funnybones (1045372) **3.35** Playdays (8034204) **3.55** The Silver Brumby (8038020) **4.20** Mr Wymi (9834594) **4.35** Smart (1651933) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5392556) **5.10** Byker Grove (T) (9243556)
5.35 Neighbours *(r)* (T) (714643)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (223)
6.30 Regional News (T) (575)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson *Consumer magazine (T) (7662)*
7.30 EastEnders (T) (759)
8.00 Animal Hospital (T) (6310)
8.30 Holiday Reps Holidaymakers *experience chaos at Minorca* airport when the island's worst ever storm coincides with unprecedented delays (T) (117)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5049)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly A holiday in a small caravan cramps the two couples' style (T) (57575)
10.00 They Think It's All Over With Frankie Dettori and Alistair McGowan *(T) 819)*
10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk With Joanna Lumley, Wesley Snipes and Alan Partridge (27846)
11.00 Question Time *Political discussion with* a panel comprising Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson; the Shadow Health Secretary, John Maples, the academic and broadcaster, Lisa Jardine, and the deputy director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, Anne Minto (T) In the event of early by-election results, subsequent programmes are subject to interruption or change (799759)
12.05am What a Carry On! Clips from *Carry On* films (8979860)
12.55 The Midnight Hour By-Election Special David Dimbleby presides over a special edition to analyse the significance of results in today's by-elections in Winchester and Beckenham (764402) Followed by Weather
3.00 BBC News 24 (88044)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. *Videoplus+* (™), *Pluscode* (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

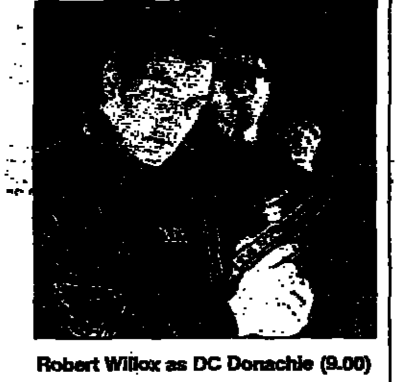
6.00am Science: Our Invisible Sun (90440) **6.30** Seasonal Affective Disorder (45827)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (6232597)
7.15 Teletubbies (4848440) **7.40** Penelope Pitstop (2122881) **8.05** Blue Peter (2719778) **8.30** Mouse and Mole (9506730) *8.35 Johnson and Friends* (4400204) **8.45** The Record (9405759) **9.10** Numbertime (8648597) **9.25** Megamaths (T) (2082914) **9.45** Come Outside (4392488)
10.00 Teletubbies (69407) **10.30** Storytime (5612907) **10.45** The Experimenter (2204556) **11.05** Space Ark (8131778) **11.15** Zig Zag (1419391) **11.35** English File (9118420) **11.55** Lifeschool (1013056) **12.20pm** Showcase (6173759)
12.30 Working Lunch (68681) **1.00** Barney (46146830) **1.05** Monty (47596371) **1.10** The Art and Antiques Hour (6235372) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (62305223) **2.40** News (T) (3247372) **2.45** Westminster (T) (7904001) **3.25** News (T) (8859778) **3.30** The Village (r) (681)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (488) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (r) (1650204) **4.55** Esther (9407759) **5.30** Today's the Day (952)
6.00 The *Munsters* (r) (737020)
6.25 Ren and Stimpy (837594)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (161223)
7.00 The Whitbread The 4,600-mile second leg across the inhospitable Southern Ocean from Cape Town to Fremantle (5204)
7.30 First Sight Examination of non-custodial *schemes aimed at reducing the number* of 15-year-olds sent to prison (T) (371) **WALES:** Just One Chance **EAST:** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST:** Close Up
8.00 Just One Chance Educational magazine (4952) **WALES:** Roy Noble on Common Ground
8.30 Top Gear Second-hand *cars (T)* (5989)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (T) (951914)

Overcrowding in Lahore (9.25pm)

9.25 Scare Stories New series *taking a sceptical look at the* prophecies of environmental doom (T) (958759)
10.15 Expanding Pictures (T) (330827)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (972533) **11.15** Late Review (310681) **12.00** The Phil Silvers Show (r) (22315)
12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (5546976) **12.35** *Architecture in Britain (7964044)* **1.05** House and Home (6543570) **1.30** The Melbury Road Set Fashionable Victorian homes (12599) **2.00** Psychology (99808) **4.00** Teaching Film and Media (65266) **4.30** Multiplexes (87315) **5.00** Teacher Training (63247) **5.30** Windows on the World (23044)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4949020)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5472285)
9.55 Regional News (T) (6989914)
10.00 The Time, the Place (56933)
10.30 This Morning (T) (48275759)
12.20pm Regional News (6160285)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2119223)
12.55 Shortland Street (2194914) **1.25** Home and Away (r) (T) (50240317) **1.50** The Rockford Files (5536440) **2.50** Vanessa (T) (8535575)
3.20 News (8847933)
3.25 Regional News (T) (8646204)
3.30 Potamus Park (3761952) **3.40** Wizadora *(1050204)* **3.50** *Kipper (1056488)* **4.00** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (9816198) **4.15** Jumanji (T) (8804930) **4.40** Out of Sight (T) (9707933)
5.10 A Country Practice (9705407) Followed by Crimestoppers
5.40 News (T) and weather (997049)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (731846)
6.25 Regional Weather (617827)
6.30 Regional News (T) (643)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (2730)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (827)
7.30 The Big Story A grandmother is recruited to live for one week with a Glasgow family and help deal with the children (827)
8.00 The Bill Ackland and Quinnan's suspicions are aroused (T) (8778)
8.30 Dover Behind the scenes at the port of Dover(T) (7285)



Robert Willox as DC Donachie (9.00)

9.00 Thief Takers: Road Rage A shootout with four ruthless villians from the "Costa del Crime" leaves two motorway patrolmen dead. With Nicholas Ball and *Robert Willox (T) (7759)*
10.00 News (T) and weather (36594)
10.30 Regional News (T) (476681)
10.40 Network First: Windsor Restored *The restoration* work carried out after the fire at Windsor Castle in 1992 (T) (534914)
11.40 WALES: The Big Story (871372)
11.40 Charlie Grace: Designer Knock-Off (493488)
12.10am WALES: Short Story Cinema: Missing Parents (1982315)
12.40 The LADS (T) (6718773)
1.15 Funny Business (6561976)
1.40 The Loop (r) (5434605)
2.10 Planet Rock Profiles: Def Leppard (3989353)
2.40 Late and Loud (r) (6720421)
3.30 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (3934402)
4.25 Cool Vibes (40450711)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (93573860)
5.00 The Pulse (r) (T) (50773)
5.30 News (10570)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2194914)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9705407)
6.25 Central News (749865)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (695865)
11.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (493488)
12.40am Funny Business (6718773)
1.15 Planet Mirth (6561976)
1.40 Rockmania (8566353)
2.35 God's Gift (2077624)
3.30 Late and Loud (3934402)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (8321518)
5.20 Asian Eye (9147228)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6160285)
12.55 Home and Away (7198575)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (79298575)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9705407)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (47198)
11.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (493488)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9705407)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (391)
6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (643)
11.40 Meridian Focus (871372)
12.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (1982315)
4.35 Beyond Reason (93573860)
5.00 Freescreen (50773)

ANGLIA

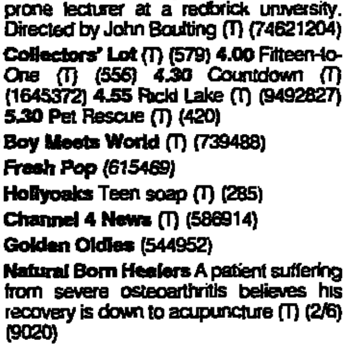
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2194914)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9705407)
6.23 Anglia Weather (618556)
6.25 Anglia News (749865)
6.55-7.00 What's On (695865)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (866827)
11.40 Blur in Concert Live at the Astoria (493488)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (90865)
9.00 Ysgolion (499204)
11.30 Powerhouse (2952)
12.00 Sesame Street (33407)
12.30pm Ricki Lake *(60049)*
1.00 Slot Meithrin (43911466)
1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac (52466371)
1.30 Men in Tights (84288372)
1.45 Film: Night Train to Munich *(74621204)*
3.30 Collectors' Lot (579)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (556)
4.30 Movers and Shakers (440)
5.00 5 Pump (9376)
5.30 Countdown (420)
6.00 Newyddion (104778)
6.10 Heno (580310)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (852223)
7.25 Penblwydd Hapus (110020)
8.00 Os Byw Ac Iach (9020)
8.30 Newyddion (5827)
9.00 Heliwr (1952)
11.00 Dispatches (479961)
11.45 Bombay Blue (835339)
12.45am Secret Lives: Ron L Hubbard (124773)
1.45-2.15 Natural Born Healers (26773)

CHANNEL 4

7.00am The Big Breakfast (90865)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (2098575) **9.20** Geographical Eye Over Britain (T) (2018339) **9.40** The Maths Programme (T) (7540594) **10.00** Middle English (T) (796737) **10.15** Le Petit Monde de Pierre (7112932) **10.30** Scientific Eye (T) (2209001) **10.50** Film and Video Showcase 3 (2229865) **11.10** The Spanish Programme (1412488)
11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (T) (2952) **12.00** Sesame Street (33407) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (63865) **1.30** Gardens Without Borders (T) (84288372)
1.45 Lucky Jim (1957, b/w) Ian Carmichael, Terry-Thomas and Hugh Griffith star in Kingsley Amis's story about an accident-prone lecturer at a redbrick university. Directed by John Boulting (T) (74621204)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (579) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (556) *4.30* Countdown (T) (1645372) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (9492827) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (420)
6.00 Boy Meets World (T) (739488)
6.25 Fresh Pop *(615469)*
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (285)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (586914)
7.50 Golden Oldies (544952)
8.00 Natural Born Healers A patient suffering from severe osteoarthritis believes his recovery is down to acupuncture (T) (2/6) (9020)



Dorinda in New Mexico (8.30pm)

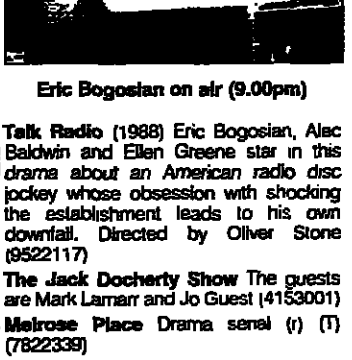
8.30 United Tastes of America Dorinda Hafner samples the cuisine of New Mexico (T) (5827)
9.00 Dispatches *An exposure of the activities* of a charity working in Bosnia (T) (933440)
9.45 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge: Beer Goggles A comedy drama written by 19-year-old Tessa Morris (T) (370285)
10.00 Streets of Fire: Another Life Saved Documentary series about the Baltimore City Fire Department. The firefighters *attempt to save a young girl who has* fallen from a first floor window, incurring life threatening injuries (3/3) (T) (2582049)
11.05 Babylon 5 (T) (590730)
12.00 Dope Sheet The world of animation (3/5) (40711)
12.30am Animation A collection of animated shorts (912112)
2.20 EZ Streets Pilot episode of a new American police drama with Ken Olin. Detective Cameron Quinn is given a chance to redeem his reputation which is discredited after a flawed raid (365537)
4.05 J'Accuse: Dame Edna Everage *(r)* (54801082)
4.20 Super Grass A man grows his own cannabis plant (40440334)
4.35 The American Football Big Match (r) (9431179)
5.55 Sesame Street (6426884)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are *picture:* **10.92075 GHz**; *sound:* **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2414001)
7.30 Milkshake *(4177643)* **7.35** Stickin' Around (r) (6578594) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (9742399)
8.30 WideWorld Series on human migration (10/10) (4697240)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2466846) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (8563198) **10.30** Instant Gardens (r) (4225264)
11.00 Leeza (7111952) **11.50** Double Espresso *(94395952)* **12.00** *The Bold and the* Beautiful (T) (6592876) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8308285)
1.00 5 News Update (48195551) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3197759) **2.00** 5's Company (8165827)
3.30 All the King's Men (1949, b/w) Broderick Crawford stars in this political drama based loosely on the life of the Southern *senator Huey Long. Directed by* Robert Rossen (2425117)
5.30 Whittle Audience participation game show (T) (3552407)
6.00 100 Per Cent *Game show without a host* (3542020)
6.30 Family Affairs Elsa wins the council election by a landslide (T) (3533372)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz news and gossip (5131846)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep The spawning of the grunion, and the congregation of millions of squid to mate and die, in a coastal area in southern California (T) (3539556)
8.00 Was It Good for You? Holidays on the Costa del Sol (5140594)
8.30 5 News *(T) (5129001)*



Eric Bogosian on air (9.00pm)

9.00 Talk Radio (1988) Eric Bogosian, Alec Baldwin and Ellen Greene star in this *drama about an American radio disc* jockey whose obsession with shocking the establishment leads to his own downfall. Directed by Oliver Stone (9522117)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show The guests are Mark Lamarr and Jo Guest (4153001)
11.45 Melrose Place Drama serial (r) (T) (7822339)
12.40am Live and Dangerous *Includes full* coverage of a recent football match from the Brazilian National League (32214570)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series starring Karl Malden and Michael Douglas (T) (7284421)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2447711)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (806865) 9.00 Hotel (49730) 10.00 Another World (31136) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (11372) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (94020) 1.00pm Geraldo (70440) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (77440) 3.00 Jenny Jones (10594) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (99001) 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1407) 6.00 The Live 6 Show (4469) 6.30 Married...with Children (8049) 7.00 The Simpsons (2136) 7.30 Real TV (7933) 8.00 Suddenly Susan (8536) 8.30 The Nanny (7961) 9.00 Seinfeld (95285) 9.30 Mad About You (92109) 10.00 ER (32204) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (32865) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (94131) 1.00am In the Heat of the Night (54686) 2.00 Long Play (5204773)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Scout's Honour (1980) (26838778) 7.45 Out of Time (1988) (51271846) 9.30 Promise Her Anything (1966) (78961) 11.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (87202136) 1.15pm Scout's Honour (1980) (847594) 3.15 Out of Time (1988) (25846846) 5.00 Little Bigfoot 2: The Journey Home (1996) (61204) 7.00 Hercules and the Lost Kingdom (1994) (38049) 9.05 Up Close and Personal (1996) (20659198) 11.15 Richard III (1995) (190310) 1.00am Innocent Lies (1995) (32712) 2.30 S.F.W. (1995) (731280) 4.10 Little Bigfoot 2: The Journey Home (1996) (758179)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Trail Street (1947) (78488) 8.00 Kid from Left Field (1979) (74364846) 9.40 Thunder Birds (1942) (9669488) 11.00 The Seventh Victim (1943) (2372407) 12.15pm The Command (1954) (473198) 2.00 Four Jills in a Jeep (1944) (21198) 4.00 Kid from Left Field (1979) (7881) 6.00 Free Willy 2 (1995) (62412310) 8.00 Down, Out and Dangerous (1995) (45407) 10.00 Strange Days (1995) (25360952) 12.25am A Woman Scorned (1993) (698995) 2.15 The Cold Equations (1996) (414402) 3.50 Adventures of a Private Eye (1977) (63789570)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm What a Way to Go! (1964) (1976833) 6.00 The Long Walk Home (1989) (2452372) 8.00 Little Nikita (1988) (2484117) 10.00 The Entity (1983) (90165407) 12.05am Body Double (1984) (9254131) 2.00 Lost Horizon (1973) (60192315) 4.15 Close

TNT

9.00pm T Bone 'n' Weasel (1992) (89216488) 11.00 Tarzan the Ape Man (1981) (84221136) 1.00am The Mask of Fu Manchu (1932) (54898402) 2.45 The VIPs (1963) (61558501) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (61391) 7.30 Wrestling (97372) 8.30 Sports Centre (81681) 9.00 Racing News (72933) 9.30 Aerobics (18223) 10.00 Canoeing (10989) 12.00 Aerobics (69469) 12.30pm Coca-Cola Cup (27440) 2.00 Pool (22914) 3.00 Sports Unlimited (58778) 4.00 Futbol Mundial (5594) 4.30 Windsurfing (1778) 5.00 Wrestling (9881) 6.00 Sports Centre (2643) 6.30 Football League Review (6223) 7.00 Ringside (64827) 8.00 Spanish Primera Liga (77391) 10.00 Sports Centre (60198) 10.30 Football League Review (79846) 11.00 Pool (87339) 12.00 Sports Centre (93841) 12.30am The Rugby Club (41711) 2.00 Ringside (61150) 3.00 Spanish Primera Liga (77222) 5.00 Sports Centre (41063)

SKY SPORTS 2

9.30am Racing (1984353) 10.00 Sports Centre (4114372) 10.30 Coca-Cola Cup (4888933) 12.00 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (4134136) 2.00pm Futbol Mundial (2305759) 2.30 Tennis: WTA Kremlin Cup (8437353) 5.30 Football League Review (9642581) 6.00 Powerboat and Jetski World (9849594) 6.30 Windsurfing (9630846) 7.00 Sports Centre (2309575) 7.30 Rugby Club (8797862) 9.00 World Cup of Golf — Live (4130020) 12.30am Sports Centre (3418421) 1.00 Tight Lines (9191773) 2.00 Sports Centre (6784547) 2.30 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand — Live (2478226) 4.30 Sports Centre (4017155) 5.00 Cricket — Live (5192421)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (62880117) 1.00 Fish TV (62879865) 2.00 Sportraits (30522575) 2.30 Golden Age of Motor Racing (98853952) 3.30 Sport USA (10196933) 5.00 Windsurfing (30513627) 5.30 Pool (35786136) 6.30 Best and Worst (56893914) 7.00 Tight Lines (89239339) 8.00 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (89219575) 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (15759440) 11.30 Close

EUROSPORT

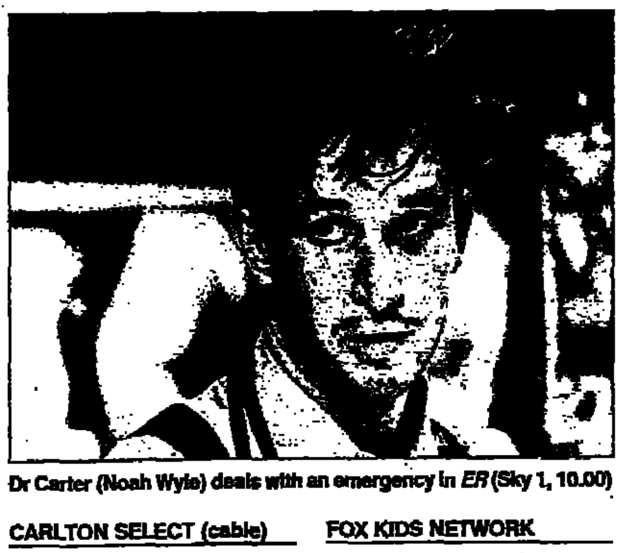
7.30am Golf (82440) 8.30 World Cup Dream Team (83049) 9.00 World Cup Qualifiers (28730) 11.00 World Cup Legends (51914) 12.00 Snowboarding (54198) 1.30pm Triathlon (13778) 2.00 Best of Euro '96 (87778) 4.00 Truck Racing (55681) 5.00 Skiing: Men's World Cup Giant Slalom — Live (3148952) 6.15 World Cup Dream Team (300933) 6.45 Aerobics (886198) 7.45 Skiing: Giant Slalom (864730) 8.30 World Cup Qualifiers (75575) 10.30 Boxing: Dominic Negus v Konstantin Okhrey (64914) 11.00 Sailing (72407) 12.00 World Cup Dream Team (28537) 12.30am Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (9997597) 7.35 Neighbours (8125310) 8.00 Crossroads (3907198) 8.25 EastEnders (1394575) 9.00 The Bill (8837662) 9.30 Howards' Way (9867020) 10.00 Bless This House (6199778) 10.30 The Sullivans (8833846) 11.00 Boon (4036952) 12.00 Crossroads (14615778) 12.25pm Neighbours (14618865) 12.55 EastEnders (1960575) 1.30 Hi-De-Hi (3234310) 2.10 No Place Like Home (7780662) 2.50 Last of the Summer Wine (2446285) 3.30 The Bill (7757198) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (78703643) 5.05 EastEnders (6529372) 5.40 Bob's Full House (7187594) 6.25 That's Showbusiness (8191198) 7.00 Last of the Summer Wine (7867943) 7.40 No Place Like Home (1508310) 8.20 Citizen Smith (1622662) 9.00 The Bill (1544827) 9.30 Taggart (25718643) 10.35 Man from Auntie (3897858) 11.15 Jack Dee (4391372) 11.50 FILM: Confessions: Two Faces of Evil (1993) (9335372) 1.30am Miami Vice (3636792) 2.20 Shopping (67884063)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8601374) 7.00 Coronation St (8185001) 7.30 Families (8104136) 8.00 Blind Date (9119778) 9.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (3883643) 10.00 The Professionals (8193020) 11.00 Hart to Hart (8180556) 12.00 Coronation St (1915402) 12.30pm Families (2622681) 1.00 Blind Date (2627136) 2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (3293136) 3.00 Donahue (9459372) 4.00 The Professionals (9478407) 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (1378865) 6.00 Families (2410407) 6.30 Coronation St (2401759) 7.00 Blind Date (7072556) 8.00 Hart to Hart (7081204) 9.00 Coronation St (8467391) 9.30 Hale and Pace (2819117) 10.00 Hawaii Five-O (7071827) 11.00 Close



Dr Carter (Noah Wyle) deals with an emergency in *ER* (Sky 1, 10.00)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (30528759) 5.30 Hey Dad II (55810681) 6.00 Blockbusters (55817594) 6.30 A Country Practice (55808846) 7.00 My Two Wives (30531224) 7.30 Relative Strangers (55897730) 8.00 Desmond's (30517643) 8.30 Life After Birth (30536778) 9.00 Boon (29200827) 10.00 Delentero (89203914) 11.00 St Elsewhere (84278136) 12.00 Us and Them (15740792) 12.30am Tales of the Unexpected (34401353)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo 6.30 Under the Umbrella Tree 7.00 Aladdin: The Series 7.30 Quack Pack 8.00 Dinosaurs 8.30 Bonkers 9.00 Gummi Bears 9.30 Grounding Marsh 9.55 Microscopic Milton 10.00 Sesame St 11.00 Winnie the Pooh 11.15 Rosie and Jim 11.35 Sing Me a Story 12.00 Tots TV 12.20pm Disney Shorts 12.25 Big Garage 12.45 Winnie the Pooh 1.00 Sesame St 2.00 Amazing Animals 2.30 Gummi Bears 3.00 Tale Spin 3.30 Goof Troop 4.00 Timon and Pumbaa 4.30 Aladdin: The Series 5.00 Gargoyles 5.30 Dinosaurs 6.00 Blossom 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Home Improvement 7.30 Wonder Years 8.00 FILM: Taking Liberty 9.30 Home Improvement

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Delly 6.30 Billy the Cat 7.00 Pinocchio 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo 8.00 Beetleborgs 8.30 Masked Rider 9.00 Magic Box 9.30 Dudley the Dragon 10.00 Inspector Gadget 10.30 Samurai Pizza Cats 11.00 Sweet Valley High 12.00 Ace Ventura 12.30pm Casper 1.00 The Tick 1.30 Iron Man 2.00 Fantastic Four 2.30 Power Rangers Zeo 3.00 Beetleborgs 3.30 Masked Rider 4.00 Mortal Kombat 4.30 Mortal Kombat 5.00 The Tick 5.30 X Men 6.00 Spiderman 6.30 Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After 6.30 Bobby's World 7.00 Spirou 7.30 Dennis the Menace 8.00 Batman 8.30 Bots Master 9.00 Art Attack 9.30 Earthworm Jim 10.00 Gravedale High 10.30 Flash Gordon 11.00 Iznogoud 11.30 Gigantor 12.00 Gravedale High 12.30pm Bots Master 1.00 Batman 1.30 Eek 2.00 Spirou 2.30 Flash Gordon 3.00 Sonic 3.30 Earthworm Jim 4.00 Dennis the Menace 4.30 Art Attack 5.00 Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes 6.30 Aaahh! Real Monsters 7.00 Hey Arnold! 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Doug 8.30 Neverending Story 9.00 CBBC 10.00 Wimzie's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 Magic School Bus 11.30 Bananas in Pyjamas 12.00 Paddington Bear etc 12.30pm Little Red Tractor etc 1.00 Dr Seuss 1.30 Little Bear Stories 2.00 Animal Show 2.30 CBBC 3.30 Rocko/Doug 4.00 Angry Beavers 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sister Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kel 6.00 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing 12.30 Ready or Not 1.00 Madison 1.30 California Dreams 2.00 Saved by the Bell 2.30 Swan's Crossing 3.00 9-2-5 3.30 Ready or Not 4.00 Saved by the Bell 4.30 USA High 5.00 Hangtime 5.30 California Dreams 6.00 On the Make 6.15 Urban Adventurers 6.30 Madison 7.00 Hangtime 7.30 USA High

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits 5.30 Say the Word 6.00 Family Fortunes 6.30 Catchphrase 7.15 The $64,000 Question 8.00 Split Second 8.30 Move on Up 9.15 Winner Takes All 10.00 Treasure Hunt 11.15 Whittle 12.00 Say the Word 12.30am Hart to Hart 1.30 The Big Valley 2.30 Big Brother Jake 3.00 Boogies Diner 3.30 Where I Live 4.00 Jeux Sans Frontiers 5.00 Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (6274285) 9.00 Tour of Duty (6294049) 10.00 Red Shoe Diaries (9663310) 10.45 FILM: Silver Bullet (1985) (4172952) 12.45am Tour of Duty (2137470) 1.45 Red Shoe Diaries (9915006) 2.30 FILM: A Chinese Ghost Story (1987) (1680727) 4.20 Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World (53221792) 4.30 The Head (6001315) 5.00 A-Team (6197421)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (8952) 7.30 Roseanne (3579) 8.00 Ellen (4372) 8.30 Cybill (3407) 9.00 Cheers (84339) 9.30 Taxi (10907) 10.00 Frasier (51440) 10.30 Kenny Everett (77488) 11.00 Festival of Fun (36556) 11.30 Ellen (58339) 12.00 Roseanne (24711) 12.30am Nightstand (85334) 1.00 Soap (41150) 1.30 Taxi (64599) 2.00 Festival of Fun (93686) 2.30 Grace Under Fire (58197) 3.00 Frasier (39696) 3.30 Kenny Everett (86773) 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4353575) 9.00 FILM: The Running Man (1987) (4356662) 11.00 Friday the 13th (2665575) 12.00 Sightings (6419518) 1.00am Twilight Zone (6401228) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (3174088) 2.00 Dark Shadows (1885860) 2.30 New Alfred Hitchcock (1804995) 3.00 Friday the 13th (7516599) 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8835204) 9.30 Garden Club (9865662) 10.00 The Great Gardening Plot (6180020) 10.30 New Yankee Workshop (8831488) 11.00 Rex Hunt Specials (1555933) 11.30 Hometime (1558662) 12.00 The Close Guide (8815440) 12.30pm This Old House (9876778) 1.00 Greg and Max's Just for Starters (4038310) 1.30 Our House (9875049) 2.00 The Furniture Guys (6012117) 2.30 Room for Improvement (7776223) 3.00 Two's Country (6024952) 3.30 Home Again (7748440) 4.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7767575) 4.30 Roadshow (7763759) 5.00 Treasure Hunters (6003469) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (7787329) 6.00 Through the Eyes of the Octopus (9851469) 7.00 World of Strange Powers (6016933) 7.30 Disaster (7764488) 8.00 Killer Gas of Lake Nyos (6287759) 9.00 Top Marques (1542469) 9.30 Wonders of Weather (9856914) 10.00 Underwater Cops (6293310) 11.00 Medical Detectives (1547914) 11.30 Medical Detectives (6186204) 12.00 Flightline (3610889) 12.30am Roadshow (5378063) 1.00 Disaster (6026624) 1.30 Beyond 2000 (2714976) 2.00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Christmas Island. March of the Crabs (7173778) 7.30 Outer Bounds (5837556) 8.00 Kiwi: A Natural History (3443204) 9.00 Across a Fiery Sky (3423440) 10.00 World of Geo (3433827) 11.00 Treasures from the Past (4088759) 12.00 Christmas Island — March of the Crabs (3201605) 12.30am Outer Bonds (2024286) 1.00 Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Travel Live 1.00 No Truckin' Holiday 1.30 On the Road to the Islands 2.00 Worldwide Guide 2.30 Floyd on Italy 3.00 The Ocean World of John Stoneman 3.30 Innocent Abroad 4.00 Reel World 4.30 Aspects of Life 5.00 Going Places 6.00 Railway Adventures Across Europe 6.30 Dominika's Planet 7.00 Travel Live 8.00 Cities of the World 8.30 The People and Places of Africa 9.00 Swiss Railway Journeys 10.00 Pathfinders 10.30 Aspects of Life 11.00 Ridge Riders 11.30 Sports Safaris 12.00 Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Rain of Steel (7302865) 5.00 Modern Marvels (2308846) 6.00 Ancient Mysteries (8934038) 7.00 Biography: Marie Antoinette (2298223) 8.00 Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 French Lunch 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 Ideal Home Cooks 2.00 Mridula's Indian Kitchen 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 The Restaurant Show 3.30 Graham Kerr's Kitchen 4.00 From the Ground Up 4.30 Ross's Foreign Assignment 5.00 Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living 9.00 I Dream of Jeannie 9.30 The Gordon Elliott Show 10.10 Jerry Springer 11.00 The Young and the Restless 11.50 Brookside 12.20pm Why Me? 1.00 Tempestt 1.50 Ready, Steady, Cook 2.30 Cheap Chic 3.00 Live at Three 4.05 Jerry Springer 5.00 Rolonda 5.50 Lucky Ladders 6.20 Ready, Steady, Cook 7.00 Hearts Afire 7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles 8.00 Adrenalin Junkies 9.00 FILM: Out of the Darkness 11.00 Sex Files II 12.00 Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Dhoop Chaon 7.00 Jaagran 7.30 Pakistan Business Update 8.00 ZEE Business News and Music 8.30 Raahat 9.00 Char Rasta 9.30 Aap Ki Farmaish 10.00 Kachay Dhagey 11.00 Pot Luck 11.30 Mast Mast Hai Zindagi 12.00 Dastaan 12.30pm Raahat 1.00 Hindi FILM: Aadmi Khilona Hai 3.30 Moods Melody 4.00 Philips Top 10 5.00 ZEE Zone 5.30 In a Jiffy 6.00 Hum Paanch 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Panchayat 7.30 Cinemagic 8.00 News 8.30 Andaz 9.00 Bat Ban Jaye 9.30 Hasratan 10.00 Bunt TV 10.30 Meri Marzi 11.00 The Shotgun Show 11.30 Amaanat 12.00 Close

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel

هكذا من الاصل

CORPORATE GOLF 45
La Manga presents ultimate challenge for amateur finalists

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 1997

MOTOR SPORT 49
Driving desire puts Heijink into fast lane

Selection of New Zealand wing makes Old Trafford task more daunting

Return of Lomu lengthens odds against England

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE giant shadow of Jonah Lomu fell across England yesterday. After 16 months away from international rugby, the 6ft 4in New Zealand wing will return at Old Trafford on Saturday in the first of two clashes between the countries and, daunting though it will be for England's refurbished XV, the whole sport will rejoice at his brave recovery from a career-threatening illness.

In two brief years and 17 internationals, Lomu seized the global imagination like few before him. His potent combination of pace, power and outright size took the 1995 World Cup by storm before it was learnt, a year ago, that he was suffering from a rare kidney ailment that required intensive treatment to keep under control.

That he was able to claim a place in the present tour party was remarkable in itself: that he has convinced the All Blacks management that he is ready to return at the highest level is testimony to his individual determination and quality.

Lomu takes the place of Glen Osborne on the left wing and John Hart, the New Zealand coach, will decide today whether Andrew Blowers, who played in the 63-15 defeat of Ireland in Dublin at the weekend, or Josh Kronfeld will play open-side flanker. Both are carrying minor injuries, Kronfeld to the ribs and Blowers to the nose, and it is likely that both will play a role at some stage of the game on Saturday.

Against them, England will pit a XV little changed from that which shared a drab 15-15 draw with Australia at Twickenham last Saturday. Will Green, the Wasps tight-head prop, was not considered because of the recurrence of a back injury, so Darren Garforth takes his place with Richard Cockerill, his Leicester team-mate, starting the match at hooker in place of Andrew Long, of Bath. Garforth played for Emerging England against the All Blacks at Huddersfield on Tuesday night and was replaced shortly after the interval specifically because the decision had already been made that he should win his fifth cap.

Lomu's immediate opponent will be David Rees, at 5ft 9in one of the smallest members of the England team, though he will be winning his second cap near his home ground on Sale. Rees, sensibly, has dismissed as irrelevant memories of the World Cup semi-final in South Africa two years ago, in which Lomu scored four tries against England, and Tony Underwood in particular.

"There is a danger of getting obsessed about it," Rees said. "I love tackling whoever is picked against me. It's an exciting challenge that I relish. I'm glad that Jonah is well again and playing Test rugby."

Rees's good wishes will not deflect the impact that Lomu would like to have on his return. It is a measure of the New Zealand team management that they made an exception yesterday morning from their usual practice of talking through promotions and demotions with the individuals concerned and announced his inclusion in front of the whole tour party.

"I think we all got an immense amount of satisfaction out of the way Jonah played at Huddersfield," Sean Fitzpatrick, his injured captain, said.

Two tries, neither particularly demanding, in the 59-22 win over Emerging England were not the whole story. "What we have seen over the last two weeks, on and off the field, has led to his selection," Hart said.

"He is full of confidence, he adds a dimension most other teams don't like but, more importantly, we have seen a maturity in Jonah as a result of his illness. He has become a mentally harder person, a stronger and better person."

Lomu himself was less than convinced that his displays thus far would be enough to restore him to the side ahead of so talented a player as Osborne. "I was in shock when my name was read out," he said. "If I had been wearing a pacemaker, it would have gone off the Richter Scale. Words can't describe it."

Only once did Lomu believe, during his eight months of treatment, that he might not return to rugby union and then Tanya, his wife and braver than most of us, "gave me a slap". Lomu described this as "a new era, a new team, the World Cup is dead and buried.

"The hard work has been done, my wife told me to go out, enjoy it and have fun. When I knew about my illness, I was lucky to have big shoulders around me to help to share the load. It was hard, watching the All Blacks play and not being part of it. Rugby was my life, it gave me a new way of life but now I can see a broader picture," he said.

During the tour, Lomu, whose weight ballooned to 24st during his drugs treatment before returning to his normal 18st, has lost some 12lb though Rees, conceivably, may not notice the difference.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

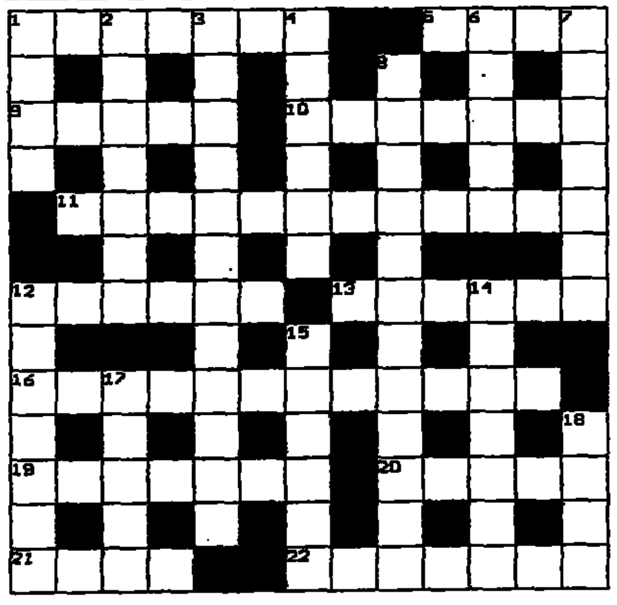
Waiting for Jonah: Greenwood, left, and Rees, who must bring down Lomu on Saturday

HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP AT OLD TRAFFORD

ENGLAND
M Perry (Bath)
D Rees (Sale) **W Greenwood** (Leicester) **P de Glanville** (Bath) **A Adebayo** (Bath)
M Catt (Bath)
K Bracken (Saracens)
J Leonard (Harlequins) **R Cockerill** (Leicester) **D Garforth** (Leicester) **M Johnson** (Leicester) **G Archer** (Newcastle) **L Dallaglio** (Wasps capt) **R Hill** (Saracens) **A Diprose** (Saracens)
Replacements: P Grayson (Northampton) A Healey (Leicester) G Rowntree (Leicester) A Long (Bath) D Grewcock (Saracens) N Back (Leicester)

NEW ZEALAND
C Cullen (Manawatu)
J Wilson (Otago) **F Bunce** (North Harbour) **A Ieremia** (Wellington) **J Lomu** (Counties Manukau)
A Mehrtens (Canterbury)
J Marshall (Canterbury)
C Dowd (Auckland) **N Hewitt** (Southlands) **O Brown** (Auckland) **I Jones** (North Harbour) **R Brooke** (Auckland) **T Randell** (Otago) **A Blowers** (Auckland) or **J Kronfeld** (Otago) **Z Brooke** (Auckland)
Replacements: S McLeod (Waikato) J Preston (Wellington) Blowers or Kronfeld C Riechelmann (Auckland) M Allen (Manawatu) A Oliver (Otago)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1256

ACROSS
1 Eight-armed creature (7)
5 Soap lather (4)
9 (Book) name; mark of rank (5)
10 Unexceptional; daily round (7)
11 At variance (12)
12 Bodily state, may be rude (6)
13 Risible error: sort of monkey (6)
16 Lack of bias (12)
19 A duct, pipe (7)
20 Long period of time (5)
21 Conversation (4)
22 Stonework (7)

DOWN
1 They feed Eng. horses, Scots people (*Johnson*) (4)
2 Oberon's queen (*MND*) (7)
3 Ridiculous (12)
4 Emphasis; strain (6)
6 Join into one (5)
7 Suffer in heat: Groan's cook (*Peake*) (7)
8 Hobnob (with) (3,9)
12 Coiffure (7)
14 Disappoint: fail to support (3,4)
15 One picked on (6)
17 Of punishment (5)
18 Watery separation from milk (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1255
ACROSS: 1 Third World 8 Dudgeon 9 Basin 10 Seal 11 Brackish 13 Abseil 15 Knight 17 Courtier 18 Stub 21 Evade 22 Preside 23 On the rocks
DOWN: 2 Hydra 3 Reel 4 Wintry 5 Rubicund 6 Dashing 7 On the table 8 Dispatched 12 Ointment 14 Sfumato 16 People 19 Trick 20 Hero

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Sugar sweetens bitter taste of resignation for Francis

By Matt Dickinson

GERRY FRANCIS doubted that it was the right decision and Alan Sugar implored him to change his mind. Yet the two of them still ended up presiding over Francis's resignation as manager of Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, saying their farwells amid a welter of mutual praise. As divorces go, it could not have been more amicable.

Francis said that he had made his decision more than two weeks ago, after the home defeat by Leeds United, and that he had made it purely in the hope that a change of leader would revive the club's fortunes. He went wishing nothing but goodwill for the club and his successor.

Meanwhile, Sugar, the Spurs chairman, claimed that he had done everything possible to change Francis's mind and blamed it all on his familiar scapegoats, the press. "The credibility of the man is no different from when he came here when everyone was singing his praises for how wonderful he had been at QPR," he said.

"He has been solicited by England and nothing has changed but a lot of pressure from the media. I am not bitching about it, that is an occupational hazard. It is all a matter of psychology and pressure, not managerial skill. Quite frankly I don't know why I'm sitting here. It started back in July, before we'd kicked a ball. Every time we slipped up it created a depression. The snowball effect from that has brought Gerry's resignation.

"I've told Gerry that if he came in wearing a mask and we called him Francisco Geraldo, things would be turned around and everybody would be happy." Sugar confirmed that Christian Gross, still coach of Grasshopper Zurich for their game against Etoile Carouge last night, would take over as Tottenham manager on Monday. He is expected at a press conference at White Hart Lane today.

The 43-year-old, known in Switzerland for the meticulous organisation of his teams, will inherit a side lying sixteenth in the FA Carling Premiership, with 13 points from 14 games. Trying to explain that position, Sugar said: "Football makes me go against my gut feelings and principles. Gerry succumbed to those pressures and took his eyes of the principles he would normally stick to. Pressure was being brought to bear by people who wanted entertainment and if he had stuck to his principles we would not be here today."

The clear inference was that, in signing David Ginola and José Dominguez in the summer, the manager had been pandering to demands for a more attractive side. One aside by Francis yesterday hinted that the pressure was not just from the supporters. "It is quite a political club in many ways," he said.

He did, however, excuse Sugar of interference. "I have made this decision solely by myself. Alan Sugar has never once mentioned anything to me about resigning or anything else, in fact quite the opposite in that he has consistently attempted to change my mind.

"I'm still not exactly certain I made the right decision but, once you've made it, you've made it. You are judged by results, and they've not been good enough."

Francis, who plans a break with his family, is now favourite to return to Queens Park Rangers and Sugar said: "I have a sneaking suspicion that, while he will enjoy the rest and recharge his batteries, some other chairman is going to be a very lucky person very soon."

Blunt Spurs 48
Southampton storm 48

Gross: new arrival

Safety-first tactics force out Goodyear

By Michael Calvin

FORMULA ONE, blighted by doubts about the credibility of its competitive structure in the wake of the Michael Schumacher controversy, last night received another ominous indication of commercial realities.

The announcement that Goodyear, the dominant tyre supplier in the sport for more than 30 years, will withdraw at the end of next season, is a direct response to changes implemented in the name of safety.

In effect, the American company is balking at the additional costs involved in the production of what they believe, in wider commercial terms, will be an inferior product. Regulations next year will involve narrow cars and treaded tyres in a premeditated attempt to reduce speeds.

William Sharp, president of the company's global operation, said: "The rule changes imposed for 1998, ever-escalating costs of participation and the consequent diminishing returns on the company's investment in Formula One, are major factors in Goodyear's decision."

Goodyear has been part of the fabric of Formula One since 1965. The company has accumulated 361 race wins and been involved with 25 world champions and 26 winners of the constructors' championship.

Their decision leaves the sport's leading teams — Williams, Ferrari, McLaren, Benetton and Jordan — searching for new suppliers.

Some are likely to switch to Bridgestone, the Japanese tyremaker that backed four of the lesser teams last year, when it broke Goodyear's monopoly.

Bridgestone's arrival triggered a hugely expensive tyre war. Goodyear responded to initial complaints about a lack of competitiveness by embarking on a development programme that could do no more than maintain its dominance.

Their clear belief that they have become the latest victims of Formula One's penchant for political power games is thought unlikely, however, to deter Michelin, the French tyre company, from entering the fray.

They are already thought to have had contact with some of the leading teams who are unnerved by the strength of the Bridgestone challenge.

Report proposes betting in pubs

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

BETTING terminals should be allowed into pubs as part of a radical plan to improve racing's finances in the 21st century, according to a British Horseracing Board (BHB) report due out next month.

The proposal is coupled with a novel scheme that would involve the Government switching £75 million a year in betting duty to the sport's depleted coffers and recouping the money by imposing a 30 per cent tax on "numbers betting" — such as 49ers and Lucky Choice.

The existing tax rate for numbers betting is much lower than that imposed on the lottery and football pools and has helped the big bookmakers — Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral — to report record profits in recent months.

The BHB report is being produced by a small group of directors and officials, chaired by Peter Savill, owner of Celtic Swing, the 1994 champion two-year-old. It discloses that the percentage of betting turnover on racing returning to fund the sport is just 1.29 per cent, compared with between 2.64 and 14.93 per cent received by other leading racing nations.

As a result, Britain is next to bottom in the prize-money table and that threatens to damage the fabric of British racing, with the best bloodstock being exported abroad. Savill's team estimates that racing needs an extra £80 million to £100 million a year to meet the sport's needs.

Betting in pubs already occurs in Australia, France and South Africa, and Savill believes that introducing terminals in Britain would increase revenue for racing and the Government as the costs are much lower than those incurred by betting shops.

The cost of operating betting shops in Britain is 13.9 per cent of turnover — exceptionally high compared with other countries — but the cost of having betting in pubs would be only about 5 per cent of turnover.

The blueprint for funding racing in the next century is due to be completed in the next two to three weeks and is likely to face bitter opposition from the bookmakers.

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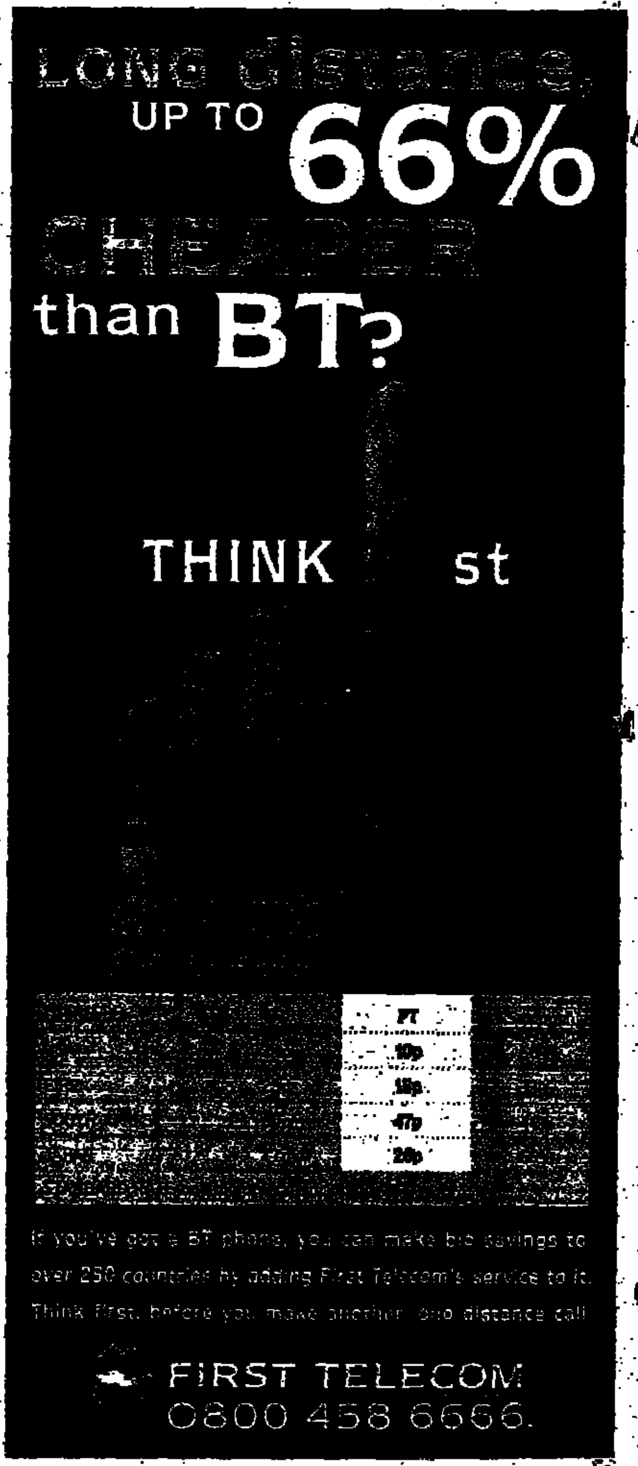
THE TIMES Under the skin of sport

World Cup: Oliver Holt meets Venables

Simon Barnes on Phillips, the horseman



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